

Suspected rapists in police net as victim dies in A/Ibom

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Uyo

Barely one month after a female student of Abia State University was allegedly gang raped; a worse case scenario has played out in Ukanafun Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State, where a rape victim has died.

A spokesman for the Akwa Ibom State Police Command, Onyeka Orji, an assistant superintendent of police (ASP), who confirmed the rape incident, told CityFile that two suspects have been arrested and were helping the police with useful information.

It was gathered that the alleged rapists, whose names have not been disclosed, come from Ikot Ideh in Ukanafun Local Government Area of the state. The victim after the sexual assault, it was learnt, subsequently became unconscious and was rushed to a hospital where she died.

According to some rights' groups in the state, many cases of rape go unreported and the perpetrators have yet to be brought to face justice.

The rape incident at Ukanafun is one of the many cases of unreported attacks on women, observers say, adding that it came on the heels of another incident along Church Street, off Itu Highway in Uyo, in which the victim was reported raped and murdered

It was not immediately clear how the suspected rapists were arrested, but it was learnt that relations of the victim who had taken her to a hospital might have reported the incident to the police, as the girl might have given the names of her attackers to the police before she died.

Residents who spoke with CityFile blamed the absence of non-governmental organisations working in the field of women rights and reproductive issues in the state, on their inability to bring cases of rape to public domain.

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Advising members of the public, particularly young ladies, to be wary of the character of people they keep as company, Orji said those behind the Ukanafun rape incident would be arrested and charged to court.

It was gathered that the dead lady was raped by four young men. Two of the suspects have however been arrested by the police.