

Owerri: Kidnapper kills 2-yr-old baby

EMMA OGU *and* THOMPSON
ANYADIKE, *Owerri*

THE body of one-year old baby, kidnapped at the weekend was yesterday recovered in a bush at Umuoma Odumara Orodo in Mbaitoh Local Government Area of Imo State by the police, shortly after arresting a 28-yr-old man, Uchenna Uhegbu who allegedly abducted her.

Uhegbu, a native of Odumara Orodo, was said to have strangled the little girl when her parents could not pay the N300, 000 ransom he demanded. He reportedly squeezed her body inside a sack and dumped it in the bush. Some youths in the village in collaboration with the police were said to have mounted a search for him following the revelation of his identity. He was finally apprehended yesterday while trying to escape.

Uchenna who was paraded before reporters at the state police headquarters at Shell camp Owerri, confessed to have strangled the girl, but

Continues on page 6

Owerri: Kidnapper kills 2-yr-old baby

•**Continued from page 1**

denied making a demand of ransom. He said he killed the girl in obedience to the request of a voice asking him to kill her if he wants to become rich.

He claimed to have returned to Nigeria last month from Ivory Coast where he trades on second hand clothes to carry out the order of the unseen voice. Narrating how he came into contact with the victim, the haggard-looking Uchenna said the little girl who was in company of her sister followed him immediately she saw him passing, up to a

distance. According to him, when he sighted her, the voice commanded him to kill her as a condition for affluence.

"When I looked at the back, I saw her following me. Then the unseen voice which has been disturbing me all the way in Ivory Coast told me to kill the little girl to become rich. I took her into the bush and held her by the throat until she died. Then the voice said I should carry out one more killing to complete the condition," he said.

It was the second time that kind kidnappers would strangle their victims in

Imo State since the upsurge of kidnapping. The first was Ikeduru not too long ago when the gang strangled a 10 year old boy they kidnapped in Port Harcourt and threw his body in a burrow pit even after collecting ransom from his father.

Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Mr. Linus Nwaiwu, told *Daily Champion* that the body of the little girl whose name could not be ascertained has been deposited at the Federal Medical Center Owerri for an autopsy while the command has commenced investigation into the incident.