

Ex-convict rapes, kills 18-year-old girl in Edo

A 36 year-old man, Topa Williams, an ex-convict recently released by the Edo State Chief Judge, has raped to death, an 18 year-old girl in Igarra, Akoko Edo local government area of Edo.

Daily Champion gathered that the deceased, Ozavize Ogumah was declared missing by the family after it was discovered that she did not return from where she was said to have gone out to hawk cooked maize the previous day.

Her decomposing body was recovered after three days in a shallow grave believed to have been dug by her suspected killer.

Williams was said to have lured the girl into his house where he allegedly raped and killed her.

Until her death, Ozavize attended Comprehensive High School, Igarra.

Her father, Mr. Sunday Ogumah said the girl was a blessing to the family. "The girl was a blessing to the family. She was very industrious in domestic work and assisted the mother in her petty trade where the family derives its income," he said.

On the day of the incident,

she was said to have arrived from her school's graduation ceremony about 2pm, ate and told the mother that she was going for daily hawking of cooked maize for the family and that was the last time she was seen by the family.

Daily Champion learnt that the mother reported the matter to the head of Anona family, Chief J. M. Akpeji who directed that the case be report to the Igarra Police Station.

The youths of the village reportedly searched for the missing girl after it was revealed that a girl's voice was heard crying for help at the residence of the Williams at No. 19, Anglican Mission Road.

Led by the chairman of the Neighbourhood Watch in Akoko-Edo, Laja Amune, the youths searched the one-storey house where Williams lives. The plastic bowl used by the girl to carry her wares was discovered.

Her decomposing body was however found on Monday, after a woman said she perceived an offensive odour and saw a body in a freshly dug pit. The youths later exhumed the body.

Chief Medical Officer (CMO)

of Igarra General Hospital, Dr. Eruanga Bello who conducted the post mortem examination on the body said the girl must have been murdered.

He said: "It appears she was severely beaten and hit on the head by an object. She had a fracture on the base of the skull and she bled through the nose, ear and mouth which possibly led to her death. However, there was no cut on any part of the body."

The suspect who is currently on the run has been declared wanted by the Police in Igarra who have since arrested the elder brother of the suspect, Omeiza Williams, a commercial motorcyclist, including one Sunday Seriki.

Divisional Police Officer in Igarra, Mr. Paul Morakinyo who declined to comment on the case of homicide directed enquiries to the state police command.

Edo State police image maker, Peter Ogboi, confirmed the incident but said they were closing in on the suspect and avenues would be explored to ensure that he was brought before the law.