

A local driver, Mohammed Chijoke, being assisted after he nearly drowned inside the river during the morning ritual at Abaji. Pic: Abubakar Umar Abubakar.

Police detain nursing mother over death of boy

By Abubakar Yakubu

The bereaved family of Chijoke was thrown into further mourning last Thursday, when police took away his wife and his two months' old daughter.

The family is still mourning the death of their nephew, Ozu Omeze, a primary school pupil who was killed last week in a store at Nyanya.

The nursing mother was arrested last Thursday and released on bail three days later.

A person who pleaded anonymity said: "While in detention, some women in this compound (where the family lives) had to go to the station every morning to collect the baby for bathing before she was returned to the mother."

A police source at the Nyanya police station told the *City News* the woman had a duplicate key to the store where the boy died.

City News learnt that when neighbours sighted blood in front of the store, they sent for the woman, who was persuaded by a female police officer living in the area to open the door.

"In the presence of this police woman and other on-lookers, the store was opened

by Chijoke's wife and we found the corpse of the boy on a bench," the neighbour said.

When *City News* reporter visited the compound where the woman lives, people were seen contributing money to carry the remains of the boy home. "The boy is still in the mortuary and we are contributing money to convey his corpse home," the spokesperson of the family said.

He said the police picked up Chijoke's wife last Thursday and placed her behind the counter.

"She was allowed to go home on that day but detained the next day for one day," he said.

The spokesperson said the police did not collect any money from the family to bail the woman last Saturday.

At the Obalende area, where the boy was killed, police officers who live in the area said: "This area that is supposed to be secure because it accommodates police personnel is not. This is because different kinds of miscreants hang out at the Kasham hotel. You see people

taking drugs as well as prostitutes doing their ignoble practices at night."

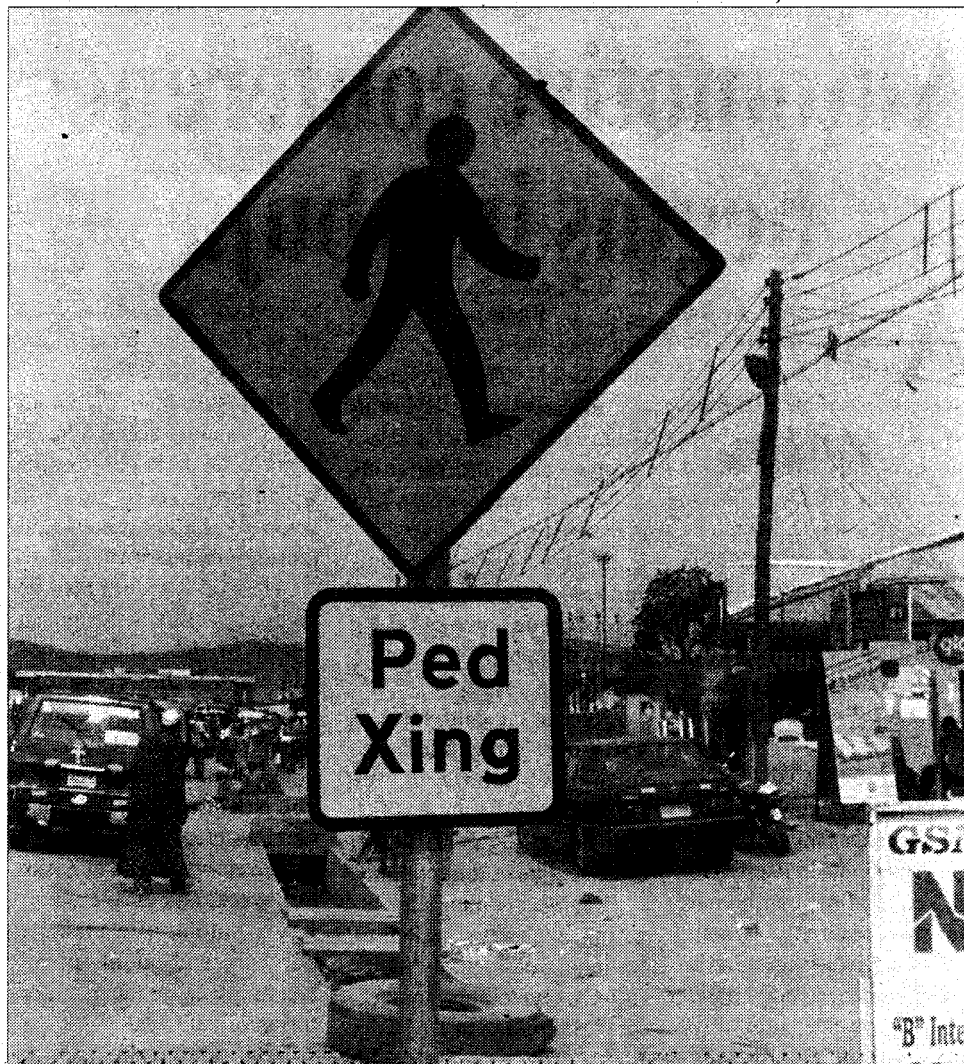
Another police woman that pleaded anonymity said most of the people who live in the area prefer to do their toileting inside pales in their rooms rather than risk going outside to use the convenience.

City News reporter could not ascertain whether people who sleep in stores close to where the boy was killed have been picked up as most stores in the area were shut yesterday.

It would be recalled that a

primary school pupil, Ozu Omeje, was found murdered in a store at Nyanya last week. The deceased's head was cracked open.

The divisional police officer of Nyanya station declined last week to comment on the issue. "Go to the FCT command and see the PRO for details," he said.



A crossing sign written in Chinese language at Nyanya, Abuja. Pic: Abubakar Umar Abubakar.