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**Daily Trust (Abuja)**  
**14 November 2008**

Posted to the web 14 November 2008


 Johnkennedy Uzoma  
 Owerri
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The Police in Imo State have arrested three suspects who masterminded the killing of a 10 year old boy, Emmanuel Eric Junir, for a ransom of N10m while one is still at large.

Parading the suspects at the command headquarters in Owerri yesterday, the Commissioner of Police, Mr. Innocent Ilozuoke said the suspects, Ugonna Nwabachu, Kingsely Edoziem and Ogbonna Onye were arrested following a tip-off. The commissioner explained that the boy was taken away by the kidnappers on his way to church on Sunday without the knowledge of his parents. Mr. Ilozuoke stated that before the police could move in to arrest the abductors the victim had been strangled to death while one side of his hand was chopped off inside a pit at Amaruru in Ikeduru LGA after collecting N500,000 ransom from the parents.

According to the CP, the kidnappers decided to kill the boy because he could easily identify them and would as well implicate them if left to go, adding that one of the kidnappers was working for the parents of the boy in Port Harcourt. The CP assured that all efforts would be made to arrest the native doctor suspected to be holding the hand of the diseased that was chopped off.

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In an interview with one of the kidnapers, Ugonna Nwabachu, he confessed that they decided to engage themselves in the kidnap business because they were financially broke. He said when little Emmanuel was taken to Owerri after the kidnap they demanded a ransom of N10m from the parents before they could release the child. Nwabachu said when they realized that the expected ransom of N10m could not come forth after collecting the initial N500,000 from the parents they decided to kill the boy rather than taking him to a native doctor to avoid implicating them. He disclosed that the diseased was taken to a pit at Amaruru in Iho Ikeduru LGA by his cousin and Kingsely and was strangled to death, though he denied not being present during the killing.

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