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Police parade suspected killer of kidnapped kid

Anietie Akpan, Calabar

A Man, Ayiene Godsgift (also known as Alex) who was alleged to have abducted and eventually killed a 10-year old school boy in Calabar, Cross River State was among criminals paraded yesterday by the Police Command.

The school boy, Joseph Edem Jnr was a son of Alex's former boss, Chief Joseph Edem.

Alex was alleged to have gone to Edem Jnr's school and signed for the boy to be released to him under the pretext that the boy's father, who is a staff of an oil servicing firm in Port Harcourt had asked him (Alex) to bring the boy to Port Harcourt.

But instead of taking the boy to Port Harcourt, Godsgift was said to have called his father on phone, hiding his identity even though his voice was obvious and said militants had kidnapped his son and he should pay N3million as ransom.

The boy's father confirmed that after alerting the police, he took the money to Ikom on October 11, as directed by the caller, believed to be Alex to six different hotels but was later asked to drop the money with a road side phone operator in the town.

After dropping the money and walking away, the police, who were strategically positioned in a corner suddenly emerged and arrested the motorcyclist and a former Councillor in Ikom who alighted to pick up the money.

Discovering that the police had recovered the money, Godsgift called and threatened that he was coming after the boy's father if the money was not returned.

Chief Edem noted that the police were alerted in Calabar and Alex was picked up two days ago after he killed the boy on October 12.

The police said immediately after the arrest, the suspects were taken to Ikom and after initially denying responsibility, he took the police to where he had killed the boy and buried him in a shallow grave.

The exhumed body of the boy was found with his school uniform wrapped round his neck, suggesting that the uniform must have been used to strangle him, an eyewitness said.

Godsgift, who was paraded at the State Police Command along with some suspected armed robbers, confessed to the kidnap and murder of the school boy, claiming the father owed him money as a staff in the business centre.

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The Commissioner of Police Mr Innocent Illozuoke confirmed the incident, while briefing journalists, saying the matter would soon be charged to court. "The kidnapping has been established and we are waiting for the post-mortem of the deceased," he said.

The exhumed body of the boy was buried yesterday at Hawkins cemetery in Calabar.

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