

Metro

Man held for allegedly killing, burying pregnant girlfriend in his room

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Harcourt

06 December 2018 |
4:20 am



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office**

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Three mediators injured as rivals fight over 16-year-old salesgirl

The police in Rivers State have arrested a young man, Mr. Prince Owabie, called J-boy, for allegedly killing and burying his pregnant girlfriend in his room. The Guardian gathered that the victim, Miss Betha Ogbede, was murdered and buried in her lover's one-room apartment in Rumuepirikom community of Obio/Akpor Government Area of the state, during her recent visit to Owabie.

It was gathered that the incident occurred on Sunday, but the suspect was arrested yesterday, by policemen following a tip-off. The Divisional Police Officer (DPO) in charge of Rumuepirikom police station, CSP Emmanuel Wagbara, disclosed that a missing person report was filed by a relative of the victim, who reported that he had been missing for a week after her alleged visit to her boyfriend.

The DPO said the suspect was invited and interrogated on the whereabouts of the deceased. He admitted that Ogbede was in his house but later left for her home. He had not heard from her since she left.



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Wagbara said: “We were not satisfied with his response. So, early yesterday we decided to conduct a search in and around his house and there we discovered a shallow grave in his room. It was then he confessed to us that the girl was buried in the grave.”

He added that the suspect has already been arrested and is assisting the investigations. Neighbours of the suspect said Owabie is a habitual womaniser, adding that he usually beats his girlfriends.

The deceased cousin said the victim went to pick her personal belongings from her residence last Sunday when a hot argument ensued between them, leading to a fight, which led to her death.

“It was as if she knew that J-boy was going to kill her. This is because she was the sister of her whereabouts before leaving for the suspect’s house. At a point in time, she called her sister from her boyfriend’s house with a tearful voice that he was going to kill her. The sister could literally hear the sound of the boy hitting the victim, shouting and crying.”

The Rumuepirikom community youth leader, Nyemanu Onuoha, described the incident as unfortunate and promised that the youths would ensure that justice takes its course. Sources said the body of the slain pregnant lady was yet to be exhumed from the suspect’s apartment. Security men have been deployed to the suspect’s compound to prevent any breakdown of law and order.

Meanwhile, the struggle over who wins the heart of a 16-year-old salesgirl, Juliana Itoro in Asaba, Delta State, yesterday led to a free-for-all fight among a group of youths. The fight, which started between two rivals, saw three mediators (men) severely injured and taken to the Federal Medical Center (FMC) Asaba, where they are receiving treatment, while the two rivals were arrested and whisked away.



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According to an eyewitness, the fight broke out yesterday when the two rivals coincidentally ran into each other when trying to catch a glimpse of a product being organised by a group of marketers for their products.

Police officers at the A division of the state command, who spoke to newsmen on condition of anonymity, said the two rivals caused a scene after a few minutes of crossfire, which degenerated into a fight with the use of dangerous weapons, with the mediators sustaining injuries in an attempt to separate them.

The Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) in Delta State, DSP Andrew Akpan, said the two men were arrested for disturbing public peace.