

defence counsel, Israel Balogun,

Father sets son ablaze for stealing N500 in Akwa Ibom

From Inemesit Akpan-Nsoh and Ayoyinka Jegede, Uyo

2 THE Akwa Ibom police command has arrested one Mr. Idorenyin Essien, aged 35, who burnt his son to death in Eket Local Government Area of the state for allegedly stealing N500. The incident, it was gathered, occurred last Friday at Afia Nsit community in Eket.

The Commissioner for Police, CP Zaki Ahmed, who disclosed this to newsmen,

said the man, who was arrested at his residence, will be charged to court and if found guilty will face the full wrath of the law.

Mr. Effiong Okon, a community leader in Afia Nsit, corroborated the incident, saying Essien burnt his son to death. He alleged that Essien's son, a minor, stole N500 from a neighbour's house to buy food to eat and when the father returned, the

neighbour reported the matter to the boy's father.

Okon said the father refunded the money to the neighbour and scolded his son. "The father then sent his son to buy kerosene for him and the son innocently ran to buy the kerosene thinking the matter has been settled but unknown to the boy, the father intended to burn him alive with the kerosene."

Okon further said when the boy returned, the man called his son out of the house and tied him with rope, poured the kerosene on him and lit fire while he watched his son burnt to death. "The man tied his son's hands and legs and set him ablaze in the front of residents at Afia Nsit."

According to him, the boy was rushed to the hospital but he gave up the ghost and the community alerted the police, which prompted the man's arrest.

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