Imo police arrest 28-year-old man for alleged killing of nursing mother

From **Collins Osuji**, Owerri

OPERATIVES of Imo State Police Command have arrested a 28-year-old man, Uche Ibekwe, from Amagu, Amandimolu, Eziaku Local Council of Enugu State, for alleged murder of one Chinenye Oru.

The arrest came after the suspect had stolen and sold the victim's 18-month-old baby girl for N400, 000 to Umuahia-based medical doctor, (name withheld).

The 23-year-old victim, *The Guardian* gathered hailed from Abakaliki in Ebonyi State.

Parading the suspect at the Command's Headquarters, on Monday, the Command's spokesperson, Micheal Abattam, said the suspect murdered the victim in attempt to cover his crime.

He said investigation was ongoing, while effort was on to arrest the accomplices to the crime, who include proprietors of one orphanage home (name withheld) based in Umuahia, the Abia State capital.

He said: "The suspect is a serial child trafficker, who specialised in snatching/stealing children from their parents, whom he will convey and take to distant places for sale, disguising as their biological father.

"Sometime in February 2022, he stole a 18 months old baby girl from one Chinenye Oru, 'f' of Abakaliki Ebonyi State. He took her to Umuahia in pretence of offering her a job, but cunningly collected her baby and sold same. "When Chinyere Oru later disturbed him to return her child, he tricked the lady that he wanted to take her to where the baby was kept. On reaching a lonely Owerri/Umuahia Road, he deceived the lady that his vehicle had developed fault, told the lady to alight from the car, bend and check under the car.

"On obeying the suspect, he used an iron rod to hit her on her head, she slumped down and he ran her over with his Avalon car. Suspect has confessed to the crime of child trafficking/murder, while investigation is ongoing."

CP Barde