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Rivers police arrest man over girlfriend's death

Posted by: Bisi OLANIYI, Port Harcourt In Crime Diary 3 days ago

A 28-YEAR-OLD MAN, Ahamehule Chukwu, an apprentice with elementary knowledge in pipe fitting, the knowledge he garnered in his days at the Government Technical College, Port Harcourt, Rivers State, has been arrested by men of the Rivers Police Command, over the death of his girlfriend, Ifeanyiwa Ani, 21.

Chukwu claimed to have started love affair with Ani in 2012, which made her to move from her parents' house to live with him in his family home in Eliozi, Port Harcourt in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of the state.

The young man's mother and siblings had full knowledge of their cohabitation and the girlfriend's little brother, Ike, usually spent weekends with them.

Things went on smoothly until Ani purportedly started receiving calls from different men. Chukwu, the last child in a family of six, in anger, asked the allegedly unfaithful girlfriend to leave his house.

It seemed like a regular break up until Ani's lifeless body was found in front of a health centre in Eliozi.

The Chief Medical Officer of the health centre, Dr. Ama Flag Amachree, reported that the body had three syringe punctures on the buttocks and was dumped there by unknown persons around at 4:30 am on March 31, this year, and he reported the matter to the police around 7:30 am of the same day.

Men of the Okporo Police Division in Port Harcourt immediately swung into action to identify the deceased and ascertain what led to her death.

The sad news got to the father of the deceased, Godwin Ani, who said one of his neighbours' daughters came to him crying and said: "Papa Ifeanyiwa, Ifeanyiwa don die oh."

The shocked father got wind of his fourth daughter's death late in the night and waited till morning before visiting the Okporo Police Station. On getting there, he gave his full statement, in which he noted that Ifeanyiwa had a boyfriend (Chukwu), whom she lived with before the sad incident.

Godwin also stated that he had been to Chukwu's house to visit his daughter and ask her to return home, but she refused, saying the boyfriend owed her N51,000 and that she would not leave until she got the money.

Policemen then made efforts to invite Chukwu for questioning, but discovered that he had moved out of his family house. After repeated efforts, he came to the police station with his lawyer, and made a statement

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family house. After repeated refusals, he came to the police station with his lawyer, and made a statement.

When quizzed on his decision to vacate his family house, the young man said he did so because he rented it out to raise money to pay for a job he had found.

Chukwu claimed that he last saw Ifeanyiwa in November 2013, when they parted ways after an argument over keeping or terminating a pregnancy she had which he said the deceased was desirous to terminate and gave her N20,000 for abortion.

He also gave account of previous abortions she had done and the warning of the abortionist from Ogoni in Rivers State to her never to abort again, stating that he had never met or spoken with the abortionist.

In a different account, Chukwu stated that the last time he saw the deceased was when they returned from a health centre after she complained of severe stomach ache, following an abortion.

The suspect also disclosed that he had gone through preliminary rounds of the traditional way of discovering the truth by visiting a native doctor. In an attempt to validate his claims, he told of how the native doctor helped him to discover that Ifeanyiwa's uncle killed his late father.

The case was subsequently transferred to the State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID) in Port Harcourt, for further investigation.

The Rivers Police Commissioner, Tunde Ogunsakin, in his reaction, condemned the spate of parental ineptitude, while admonishing parents to always painstakingly ensure that their children lead responsible lives.

Ogunsakin, while warning against cohabitation of minors, said: "It is important that parents stress the importance of being responsible to their children. Abortion is a dangerous option. So, people who have no desire to raise children should abstain from it. A lot of things are happening. We need to properly instruct our children and wards."

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