

# 15-yr-old boy abducted, killed after payment of N5.5m ransom in Bauchi

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SUSPECTED kidnappers in Bauchi State abducted a 15-year-old boy, Abubakar Sadiq Suleiman, collected N5.5 million from his parents, but rather than release him, killed him and buried his corpse at a place where his parents found it.

Narrating the incident to newsmen in Bauchi on Sunday shortly after the funeral prayers of his son, father of the deceased, Malam Mohammed Auwal Suleiman, said that on Thursday, April 2, he was called on his mobile phone and was asked if he was the father of Sadiq, which he affirmed.

He said: "The caller then told me that they had abducted my son, and demanded for N10 million or else they would kill him.

"When they dropped the phone, I called my wife and asked her where Sadiq was and she searched the house and told me that he was not around.

"I went back home and after two days, the kidnappers called again and asked me to give them N7 million. They collected some amount in cash, while they sent me three account numbers and asked me to deposit the money there, which I complied with.

"They then told me that after the evening prayers, around 7:00 p.m, I should go and take my son at Inkil village. Later they called me and asked me to go to Kan-gere near a church, that I would see my son. We went there with my brothers and searched for the boy but we didn't find him.

"When we returned, I received a phone call from the police, because the matter was reported to them. They told me that they had arrested three suspects in connection with the kidnapping and that I should come and see them because they confessed that they were responsible for the abduction.

"Last Friday, the police said the suspects confessed that the people who abducted the boy had killed him and they took the police to a place where he was buried. I believe they killed him after they collected the ransom because they allowed me to speak with him after they collected the money."

When contacted, the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), DSP Kamal Datti Abubakar, confirmed the incident.

He said the police were still investigating the crime to ascertain the motive behind it.