

21-year-old
sentenced
to 10 years
imprisonment for
sexually-assaulting
minor to death

Ebiowei Lawal | Yenagoa

A Sagbama High Court sitting in Yenagoa, the Bayelsa State capital, has sentenced a 21-year-old man, Timiondu Jephthath, to 10 years imprisonment for defiling a five-year-old girl, which led to her death sometime in 2016 at Akede community in Sagbama Local Government Area of the state.

The judge, Justice E.G.Omukoro, in his ruling in the suit numbered SHC/4C/2016 with a count-charge of murder brought against the accused by the state Ministry of Justice, declared that "the charge becomes a manslaughter charge due to the inability of the prosecution to prove the allege intent to commit murder."

In his ruling after considering the defendant's plea of allocutus, Justice Omukoro declared that the court was mindful of the youthful age of the defendant, who could be redeemed and make amends by way of atonement for his action, then ordered that "the defendant be detained at the Okaka Correctional Centre in Yenagoa or elsewhere as the governor may determine for a period of 10 years at the pleasure of the state."

It will be recalled that in 2016, the accused, who was aged 16 years, was arrested for defiling the five-year-old girl, which led to her death, and subsequently dumping her body inside an abandoned fish pond close to his residence.