

17-year-old SS3 student kidnaps, kills five-year-old boy in Plateau

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A 17-year-old Senior Secondary School (SSS 3) student, Elisha (surname withheld), has been arrested by the Plateau State police command for allegedly kidnapping and killing a five-year-old boy after collecting N400,000 ransom from his parents.

The Commissioner of Police, Julius Alawari, informed journalists at the command's headquarters in Jos, on Thursday, that the Anti-Kidnapping Unit of the command received a phone call early this month that a five-year-old boy was missing and that searches throughout the night proved abortive.

He stated that the fol-

lowing day, a pair of shoes belonging to the victim was found close to a handwritten note stating that if the father wanted his child, he should pay N5 million and that he should not call, but send a text message through the phone number indicated.

"Upon receipt of the report, a team of police operatives led by Okala Ugbede, swung into action and was able to trace the kidnappers on Monday and arrested one of them, Elisha (17), who upon interrogation, admitted and confessed to having conspired with one Malik to kidnap the victim from his father's compound to an uncompleted building in the community where they kept him and covered his mouth to stop him from shouting.

"He also confessed that after collecting the N400,000 ransom from the victim's parents, his accomplice, who is still at large, strangled the boy, while he held his hands and legs.

"Thereafter, they dumped the body in a swampy place close to the uncompleted building."

The police boss said based on the confession, a team of operatives visited the scene, where the corpse was recovered and was taken to the Plateau State Hospital for confirmation and necessary action, after which it was released to the parents for burial.

The suspect, who spoke with newsmen, said: "My name is Elisha. I am 17 years old, an SS3 student, and I want to say that I committed

the crime due to hardship and suffering.

"On the 13th of this month, a boy was kidnapped; they are my closest neighbours. His elder brother was sent outside to buy something, so the five-year-old boy was behind, following him. My friend and I planned to abduct him and eventually, we succeeded.

"We took the boy and kept him somewhere, and later in the evening, the family began looking for him. I pretended and joined them in searching for him.

"The boy was kept in an uncompleted building. Within that period, we demanded N5 million ransom, then, five days later, we killed the boy by strangling him to death after collecting N400,000 from his parents."