

Two men rape 11-year-old girl to death in Anambra

• Pastors impregnate three secondary school girls

An 11-year-old primary school girl has been allegedly raped to death in Anambra State by two farmers.

The suspects, Dominic Mba, 45, and Sunday Mba, 40, are brothers. The incident coincided with another bizarre tale involving two pastors, who allegedly impregnated three secondary school girls while performing "spiritual healing" on them.

The little girl (whose name is withheld due to her age) was said to have been sent to a farm at Akwuzu in Oyi Local Government Area of the state in company with a younger brother when the incident occurred. Police investigations revealed that her father, Ananti, an evangelist, had reportedly sent her to fetch green leaves from the farm when the suspects attacked her.

The suspects, who were on their farm when the two children walked by, allegedly attempted to lure the deceased with money, but she refused and took to her heels. They, however, chased and overpowered her before she was forcibly taken into a nearby bush and raped till she gave up the ghost.

Her sibling, Chiemelie, who watched the men commit the act in horror, escaped from the scene and rushed home to inform his father about what he had just seen. Narrating how his

John Ameh, Awka

daughter was defiled and killed at the headquarters of the Anambra State Police Command on Friday in Awka, Ananti said his boy came home with the slippers of the deceased.

He said, "My son tried to explain by describing with his hands what exactly happened; but when I could not get what he was saying clearly, I went with his mother, Anayo, to the scene of the incident. When we got there, my boy showed me one of the rapists, who claimed not to know what happened. We called the police and in the process of searching the bush, the body of my little girl was found; they raped her to death. The footprints of the men were traced to the point in the bush where they committed the act."

The state Commissioner of Police, Mr. Oliver Osuchukwu, who paraded the suspects on Friday, however, said they feigned ignorance of the crime when they were arrested. When journalists sought their reactions, the Mbas claimed that they were on their farm when some people came and accused them of rape.

"We know nothing about this matter; we don't know what they are talking about", the older one said. But when the little boy was asked about what

happened, he did not only give a vivid picture of how the rape was committed, but also identified the younger suspect as the one who attempted to lure his sister with money.

In the second incident, the principal suspect, Pastor Victor Ikediaso of God's Decision Bible Church, Umuobanihe Ubahu-Ekwem, Ihiala Local Government Area, allegedly "abducted" the three girls and impregnated them. The victims were aged 16, 19 and 20.

Speaking on the matter, Osuchukwu explained that the suspects were performing what he called "spiritual healing" on the girls, but got them pregnant altogether. According to the police commissioner, a medical report had already confirmed that the girls were pregnant, but Ikediaso was said to have accepted responsibility for only one.

He allegedly told the police that his colleague, whose name could not be ascertained on Friday, was responsible for the other girls' pregnancies. His colleague is already in police net but Ikediaso, who was arrested in Imo State, is still being expected in Awka.

Osuchukwu said, "This case is still under investigation and I can assure you that in less than one week, the suspects will be arraigned."