

City CRIME

House boy confesses killing, raping master's wife

Emmanuel Obe, Benin

SEVENTEEN-year-old Monday Okon, the house help who was arrested by the police in Benin on Thursday for killing the wife of his master, has confessed to having carnal knowledge of the woman after killing her.

The Etim Ekpo, Akwa Ibom State-born suspect, who was paraded by the police in

Benin on Tuesday, said he stabbed the victim, a 29-year-old medical doctor, in the neck after the devil took control of him.

Okon said he lost control over his emotions after the deceased subjected him to beatings for letting the Indomie noodles she asked him to cook get burnt.

He said he reached for the kitchen knife and stabbed her in the neck. After then, he

called in the security guard, Mohammed Idris, to help him dispose off the body.

But before they pushed the corpse under her bed, Okon said he and Idris undressed and had carnal knowledge of her.

Idris, who was also paraded, however, denied involvement in the killing or having carnal knowledge of his master's wife as alleged by Okon. He said he had not set his eyes on the woman since she was said to have been killed.

Idris said it was only Okon who was in the house with the woman on the fateful day until a relation of the woman came in to ask after her.

It was after the visitor came into the house that he discovered what had happened. Idris said as a Muslim from Niger Republic who was fasting, he could not have had carnal knowledge of a woman.

Detained along with the two suspects is Mr. Moses Paul, an Ogoni man who had introduced Okon to the bereaved family. Paul denied involvement in the killing as well.

Meanwhile, the Commissioner of Police, Edo State Command, Mr. Bala Hassan, has said that pathologists are being expected from Lagos to carry out the autopsy on the deceased.

He said despite the confessional statement by the prime suspect, Okon, the police were still carrying on investigations to establish the motive behind the killing.

Parents arrested for abandoning HIV-infected baby

Tunde Odesola, Osogbo

FOR allegedly abandoning a three-month-old baby diagnosed of HIV, the parents of the baby, Mr. and Mrs. A. Ariyo, have been arrested by the police.

Investigation by our correspondent, on Monday, showed that the parents, who reside in Osogbo, took their ill baby boy to Our Lady of Fatima Hospital, Osogbo, on October 2, 2007.

Medical examination revealed that the baby, who was admitted in Cot One, at the children's ward, was infected with HIV-1 and HIV-2 strains.

It was gathered that the baby was later referred to the Ladoke Akintola University Teaching Hospital, Osogbo, on October 3, 2007.

The baby, however, died before the referral process was concluded.

During the referral process by the staff of Our Lady of Fatima Hospital, the mother of the baby gave an excuse that she was going to call the

baby's father, leaving a relative behind at the hospital. She never came back to the hospital.

The young relative, who was left behind, also told the hospital staff that he was going to ease himself, only to disappear.

Our correspondent gathered that a student nurse (name withheld), donated blood for the child even as a photographer (name withheld) picked the bill for the baby's drugs.

When it was apparent that the family of the baby had absconded, the hospital management reported the case to the police.

The police, on visiting the No. 7, Olugun Street, Oja-Oba address which was given by the parents at the hospital, discovered that the baby's parents never lived there.

But the police, on a tip-off, later uncovered the whereabouts of the fleeing parents.

Police Public Relations Officer, Osun Command, Mr. Joshua Olayemi, confirmed the incident to our correspondent.