

Man rapes, kills six-year-old girl with hoe

Francis Falola, Minna

A 25-year-old man, Aliyu Haruna, has been arrested for raping a six-year-old girl, Ladi Dauda, whom he then bashed to death with a hoe in a desperate attempt to prevent her from reporting to her parents.

Haruna, a farm labourer, allegedly committed the crime at Tunga Mageri in Mashegu Local Government Area of Niger State.

Parading the suspect among other felons before journalists at the Police headquarters in Minna on Thursday, the state Commissioner of Police, Mr. Paul Iseghohi, condemned the crime.

He disclosed that the police had almost concluded its investigations into the matter and that the suspect would soon be charged to court.

According to him, the little girl had gone to the farm to pick cashew nuts early in the morning when she was attacked.

Haruna dragged her into the bush and raped her.

Following the child's insistence amid cries to report the incident to her parents, he, thereafter, silenced her by using the hoe to beat her to death.

The 32 other suspects paraded were arrested for various offences, which included armed robbery, trafficking in drugs and 'witchcraft' among others.

Iseghohi expressed the determination of the police in the state command to always ensure that criminals

were arrested and brought to book.

Haruna, speaking in an interview with our correspondent, admitted committing the crime, but insisted that the act was committed because the girl's time on earth was up.

He said, "I was coming to meet my colleague who left for the farm earlier before me and on my way, I saw the four girls engaged in a quarrel among themselves, I reconciled them and Ladi who vowed to follow the other girls to their parents to

report them. I pleaded with her to leave the girls alone and go to her parents.

"As the three girls left for their destination leaving only her to take another direction, a thought came over me and I decided to change my route and to follow her.

"After some time, I forcefully dragged her into the bush where I made love to her under duress. But as she kept on crying that she would report the matter to her parents, I became worried knowing what such an action would attract a

penalty."

"I did everything possible to pacify her but as she refused and insisted on reporting me, I became

Woman, 53, charged w

TWO men, Adekunle Yinusa, 33, Akeem Olayiwola, 30 and a 53-year-old woman, Atunde Adeke, were on Thursday, arraigned before an Osogbo magistrate in Osun State on three counts of advance free fraud.

Addressing the court, the

Police arraign octogenarian, 8 others for stealing

A N 85-year-old man, Obeachi Obanya, and eight others have appeared before an Asaba Chief Magistrate's court, Delta State, for stealing and damages.

The eight others are Elumike Okwudi, 73, Amobi Okonkwo, 64; Michael Ozoh, 60; Chukwuedo Chiweokwu, 42; Chinwoku Nwache, 23; Christian Jibunor, 20; Augustine Ajudua, 21, and Keleka Chibuzor, 19.

The police prosecutor, Mr Chuka Uweagha, told the court that the accused persons, on May 19, at Obeojie community bush at Okpanam near Asaba conspired among themselves and stole two batteries valued at N36,000.

A News Agency of Nigeria quoted Uweagha as saying that the accused persons also damaged beacons worth N1.5m and a bulldozer valued at N1.8m.

He said that the stolen batteries and other items damaged were property of the Agricultural Mechanisation Department of the Edo Ministry of Agriculture.

He said that the offences were punishable under section 390 (9) and 451 of the criminal code, cap 48, vol 11, laws of the defunct Bendel 1976 as applicable to Delta State.

All the accused persons

pleaded 'not guilty' to the charges against them.

The presiding Chief Magistrate, Mrs. Patricia Nsolo, granted them bail at N30,000 each and one surety each in like sum.

She said the sureties should swear to affidavits of means and attach two passport photograph each.

She then adjourned the case to July 8 for hearing.