

2nd August, 2013

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## Woman beats three-year-old girl to death for vomiting

AUGUST 2, 2013 BY ENIOLA AKINKUOTU 43 COMMENTS



Rebecca and the dead child

A 21-year-old woman, Rebecca Bassey, has been arrested by the Lagos State Police Command for allegedly beating her husband's three-year-old niece, Deborah Bassey, to death.

According to police authorities, the suspect beat up the girl because she vomited and defecated on herself.

A police source told *PUNCH Metro* on Thursday that the incident occurred at Ijaiye Ojokoro area of the state on July 22, 2013.

He said, "The victim (Deborah) lost her mother in 2010. Early this year, Deborah's father was evicted from his home and he decided to send Deborah and his second child to go and stay with his brother, Vincent, until he settles down.

"Deborah and her nine-year-old sister were living with Vincent and his wife, Rebecca, in a one-room apartment at Powerline, Jankara, Ijaiye Ojokoro. However, Rebecca was always maltreating the two children."

According to police investigations, on the day of the incident, Deborah woke up around 5.30am with a high temperature.

The three-year-old girl was said to have started vomiting and defecating soon after. This was said to have angered Rebecca, who instead of administering treatment to the child, decided to beat her up.

A police source said, "In the process of beating the girl, the suspect pushed her and she fell against the edge of a wooden chair in the room."

*PUNCH Metro* learnt that the victim started to bleed from the head. Some neighbours rushed to the Hospital, where she was referred to Orile Agege General Hospital where she later died.

A woman leader in the area, Kudirat Ogunseyi, was said to have reported the matter to Ijaiye Division after which the suspect was arrested.

Some neighbours, in their statements at the police station, described the suspect as a woman who was fond of beating the children.

"The way that woman beats up the children was very worrying to the extent that the landlord had threatened to evict them," one of the statements reads.

Vincent told the police that he was not present when his wife beat his niece to death.

"I was not at home when the incident happened. I am a photographer during daytime but I work as a vigilante group member. So I hardly sleep at home," he said.

The suspect however said she did not kill the victim deliberately. She said she only pushed Deborah and she hit her head against the chair.

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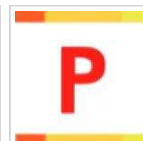
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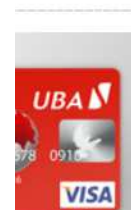
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"I am a housewife and I have a 10-month-old baby. I did not mean to kill her (Deborah). I only pushed her because she vomited and defecated on the floor. I was only trying to correct her. It was not deliberate. I am a mother too and I know how I would feel if my son was killed," she said.

It was learnt that the matter had been transferred to the State Criminal Investigation Department, Yaba.

A source at the SCID said the police were waiting for autopsy. He added that if other wounds were found on other parts of the victim's body, it would prove that the victim was indeed tortured before her death.

When contacted on the telephone, the Police Public Relations Officer, Ngozi Braide, said she would call back.

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Obi • 6 hours ago

Rebecca will soon go to jail and another woman will then take care of her children and probably maltreat them like she did to Deborah. Whatever a man (woman) sows, so he (she) reaps. This law is incontrovertible!

8 ^ | v Reply Share



Yemi • 6 hours ago

Sheer wickedness!!! Even if she didnt mean to kill her like she claims, why would she beat up a girl who has high temperature that much? Her claims as a mother leaves a lot to be desired.

4 ^ | v Reply Share



Mercy • 3 hours ago

I am saddened my this news but to be honest ,a lot of this happenings is due to the state of the nation. A hungry man is an angry . I know it is easier to criticize and crucify the woman but we need to start looking beyond in this country. How can we as individuals

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