

Missing 11-year-old Delta boy found dead in drum

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Commissioner of Police for Delta State Command, CP Muhammed Ali

By Matthew Ochei

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An 11-year-old boy, Joshua Sunday, whose whereabouts had been unknown for three days, has been found dead inside a drum at his parent's residence on Union Street, back of Stephen Keshi's Stadium, in the Asaba area of the Delta State.

PUNCH Metro gathered that two narratives had been trailing the circumstances surrounding the minor's death.

While it was said that Joshua fell into the drum containing water and drowned in the process, Joshua's mother, Christy, alleged that her son was killed and dumped in the drum.

Narrating her ordeal, Christy said she travelled to the western part of the country but discovered that her son had gone missing when she returned home on Thursday, February 2, 2023.

She said, "I called Joshua around 3pm and informed him that I was returning home, but because of fuel scarcity, we couldn't get fuel on time and it delayed my movement to Asaba.

"I got to Asaba around 7pm, entered the house, and saw my son's slippers scattered on the ground but didn't see him. When I asked my house help for the whereabouts of Joshua, she said, she suspected that he went to charge his phone.

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"I went to the place he normally goes to charge the phone, but he was not there. I started searching everywhere for my son but I didn't see him. In the evening, I reported the case at the A Division police station."

Christy said three days after, she was told to check for her son somewhere and immediately went to the place, adding that she was going about searching for her son when she received a call that her son had been seen.

“I went back to my compound and saw my son’s corpse inside the drum in my corridor. Imagine, I took water from the drum to wash my face on Friday morning, and it was in the drum they said they found my son. They killed him and sneaked him back inside the drum.”

The aggrieved mother, while demanding justice for her son’s death, urged security agencies in the state to expedite action to apprehend his suspected killers.

Contacted, the state Police Public Relations Officer, DSP Bright Edafe, while confirming the incident, said some suspects had been arrested.

He said, “The police are waiting for the autopsy to ascertain the cause of the boy’s death. Some suspects have been arrested but now I cannot tell you the number of the suspects arrested.”