

# Enugu man rapes, strangles relative in bush

17th June 2023



By Raphael Ede

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The Enugu State Police Command has arrested a 21-year-old man, Augustine Akor, for allegedly raping and killing a 16-year-old girl, Faith Akuji, said to be his relative.

A statement by the police on Thursday and signed by the Police Public Relations Officer, DSP Daniel Ndukwe said the suspect was arrested on June 12, 2023, by operatives serving in Igbo-Eze North Division of the command with the assistance of the neighbourhood security watch.

Ndukwe alleged that the suspect raped the victim on June 8 and strangled her in a bush at Mpole-Ubere in the Ette community to cover up the crime.

Preliminary investigation, according to the statement, revealed that the victim had gone missing in the evening hours of June 8 “after her grandfather sent her to grind cassava in the community centre, with all efforts made to trace her whereabouts proving abortive.”

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Ndukwe said, “Her decomposing body was, however, found in the bush following the arrest of the suspect, who confessed to have dragged the victim into the bush and forcefully had carnal knowledge of her until she fainted and died in the process.

“The victim, found without any lower body clothes, was taken to a hospital and confirmed dead by doctors on duty.”

The PPRO said the case was undergoing further investigation at the Homicide Section of the State Criminal Intelligence and Investigation Department.

He noted that the suspect would be arraigned upon the conclusion of investigation.