

substance at N57 million, adding that the narcotic

Onodyer, 40, ingested 11 wraps of cocaine weighing

he wanted to invest one million naira they prom-

drugs," he told the investigators.

Four-year-old girl raped to death in Bayelsa

From **Femi Folaranmi**,
Yenagoa

OFFICIALS of the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) and other stakeholders on the protection of the rights of the child were shocked over incidents of child abuses in Bayelsa State.

More worrisome was as 40-year-old man raping a four-year old girl to death in Southern Ijaw Local Government Area.

State Coordinator of the Child Protection Network (CPN), Mrs. Mariam Kombo-Ezeh, also dis-

closed yesterday that two other cases of child abuse which occurred in the state include the killing of a seven year-old girl who had complications from HIV/AIDS infection after being raped by a man and another 13-year-old girl who was gang-raped in Yenagoa, the state capital.

In her presentation to Stakeholders on Child Protection with the theme: "Advocacy engagement with policy makers on domestication of Child Rights Act in Bayelsa," Mrs. Kombo-Eze bemoaned the rising incidences of child

abuse and inhuman treatments.

"It is pathetic and the cases are rising. There is the need for a speedy passage of the Bill on Child Rights into law."

Also speaking, the Commissioner for Women Affairs and Social Development, Ms. Nengi Rufus-Spiff, said the Dickson administration "is shocked by the revelations and will never support issues of child abuse under any guise. "Children in Bayelsa State will be properly protected under the proposed bill to be passed into law

by the House of Assembly. Parents, too, should also train the boy-child to respect the girl-child. It is a thing of regret to know that the rate of such abuses is high," she said.

In her message, the Chief Field Officer of UNICEF, Enugu office, Mr. Nwanaka Chude Onwurah, represented by Mr. Charles Zuki, commended the state government on its policies on the protection and welfare of the Bayelsa child,

"We are optimistic that the Child Right Bill in Bayelsa will soon be passed into law," Onwurah noted.

Man, 62, narrates how son was killed

mother would die. At times

brother who left moments

rushed him to the hospital.