

Stories by NGOZI UWUJARE

THE family of 8-year-old Favour Bassey, has been overwhelmed by grief following her gruesome murder by a neighbour, Chibuike Duru, 19, who stabbed her to death as she was returning from school, very close to the family home on Isiulo Street, Okpoko, Ogbaru Local Government Area of Anambra State.

Duru, who is known in the neighbourhood by the nickname, Awilo, allegedly committed the heinous act on March 8, 2016, when he intercepted the little girl in front of their compound and stabbed her twice in the chest with a kitchen knife and then ran away.

As *Sunday Sun* learnt from the Anambra State Commissioner of Police, Mr. Hosea Karma, prior to committing the dastardly act, Duru had visited the shrine of a native doctor at Ihitenansa in Imo State, who told him that he must kill a child below 10 years for him to become intelligent in school and also acquire wealth.

It was in the quest to carry out the evil advice that he gruesomely ended the life of young Favour.

Karma further told *Sunday Sun* that it took about one month and two weeks for the community to arrest the suspect. Members of the community had intended to lynch him, before wise counsel prevailed and he was handed over to the police.

It took manly effort for the father of the victim, Felix Bassey, who spoke with *Sunday Sun*, to suppress his emotions and recount what happened: "It was a big shock when I heard the news that my first child was stabbed to death by our neighbor, Okpoko Chibuike Duru, for a ritual purpose. Before her death, Favour was with my grandmother in Cross River. They brought her to me two weeks ago from Cross River State to join me in Anambra State before Duru stabbed her to death. She did not insult him in any way. I reported the case to Okpoko Police Station.

"I have buried my little child. I want justice to be done. Everything looks so strange to me. I have four children, and Favour was my first child."

At the headquarters of the State Criminal Investigation Department, where he is being held while investigation continues,



•Deceased, Favour Bassey

Teenager kills 8-yr-old for ritual to become brilliant

Duru told *Sunday Sun*: "My parents are poor. We find it difficult to eat. I have been following one of my cousins to the shrine of a native doctor. One day, I visited the native doctor in Ihitenansa, Imo State. The native doctor asked me to kill a child below 10 years old so that I could become rich and brilliant in school. Meanwhile, I dropped-out in JSS 2 at Okpoko Boys Secondary School.

"On that day, I saw Favour playing with her friends in front of the compound at Okpoko. I called her to a corner and stabbed her twice with a kitchen knife on her chest, thinking I would fulfill what the native doctor asked me to do. I wanted to carry the body, but when I heard people shouting, I had to escape. I didn't go back to meet the native doctor. He told me that once I kill a child below 10 years old, I would become a rich man and intelligent in school. Ever since I killed Favour, I have not seen the fulfillment of what the native doctor promised me that I would



•Anambra CP, Karma

become."

Duru is now gnashing his teeth in regret as he awaits being charged to court to face the wrath of the law.



•Suspect, Chibuike Duru