

Nigeria: Corpse of Rape Victim Dumped in Imo Community

By Chidi Nkwopara

OWERRI--Confusion and apprehension have gripped the people of Umunneato autonomous community in Aboh Mbaise Local Government Area of Imo State, following the discovery of the nude corpse of a lady in their community.

Investigation revealed that the discovery was made a day after the world celebrated the famous Saint Valentine's Day, at Okwu village.

An eyewitness, who spoke on grounds of anonymity, told Vanguard that a close look at the lady's corpse revealed bruises, especially around the breasts and private parts.

Although the witness did not completely rule out what he called a brutal gang-rape of the girl, he could not, however, identify the victim or give her actual age.

The witness said: "I am not too sure that it was a case of ritual killing because no part of the girl, on the face value, was missing.

"It is, to me, a case of brutal gang-raping to death of the unfortunate girl."

The source said nobody knew how the lifeless body was dumped along the road at Okwu or did it.

Speaking also on the issue, the traditional ruler of the community, Eze Leo Nwokocha, said the identity of the dead lady was still unknown.

According to the royal father, police stormed the scene soon after getting wind of the incident and removed the corpse.

The traditional ruler said he had no doubts that the police and other security agencies were on top of the situation, with a view to ascertaining who the perpetrators were and making them to face the full weight of the law.

The body of the girl had been moved to the morgue of Aboh Mbaise General Hospital.

No police officer at Aboh Mbaise Divisional Police Headquarters was prepared to speak on the issue, but only referred Vanguard to the Police Public Relations Officer, PPRO, Mr. Andrew Enwerem.

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