

Vanguard

Woman sells grandson to ritualists for N100,000

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By Eric Ugbor

ABA—police in Abia State have arrested a woman (names withheld) for allegedly selling her daughter's three-year-old son and supervising his killing by ritual killers.

The woman, who was arrested and taken into custody at Umuobiakwa Police Station, said she sold the boy for N100, 000.

A source close to Umu-Amukwu village, where she lived with her grandson, said the woman came back last week from where she sold the child, only to tell her landlady that the child was missing.

According to the source, her landlady then asked her how she knew that the child was missing. She replied that the boy was sleeping inside her apartment when she left, but that she returned to meet his absence.

He said the suspect's landlady asked her if she had searched for the boy in the neighbourhood but was told to "leave off searching for him because that would be a waste of time."

The source noted that the suspect's response triggered suspicion in her landlady, who told older men in the village about the incident.

He said that on further inquiry, the suspect's landlady and some men questioned her and then invited policemen to arrest her.

She later told the policemen before the elders that she wanted money for a lady's motorcycle before the end of the year, which prompted her to sell the boy for N100,000.

The source said that the suspect told them she sold the child to a native doctor in Akwa Ibom, who killed him in her presence, hence her reply that searching for him was useless.

When contacted, Abia State Police spokesman, DSP Udeviotu Onyeke, said the woman later changed her earlier confession, saying she gave the child to her sister in Aba, who she could not name.

The PPRO said the woman is still being held to determine her sanity.