

Girl, 11, gang-raped to death in Lagos

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By Evelyn Usman

An 11-year old girl, Favour Okechukwu, was gang-raped to death in Ejigbo area of Lagos with the perpetrators on the run.

The deceased, a Junior Secondary School 3 student was sent on an errand by her mother, by 3 p.m.

She was said to have been lured into a building on Olarewaju street, where four men took turns to rape her. She was suspected to have been gaged in the process, apparently to avoid raising that alarm.

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Meanwhile back in her parent's abode at Ore-Ofe street, apprehension had set in by 6 pm when her father, Okechukwu Dickson, returned home without any sight of his first child. When informed that she had not returned from the errand, he went in search of her.

To his dismay, Favour's corpse was found in a building on Olarewaju street, not too far from her parents, close to two hours into the search.

On closer observation, she was discovered to be naked, with her body stained with blood.

Her devastating mother who was still trying to come to terms with the crude reality of her daughter's demise could not speak with Saturday Vanguard.

But her father who managed to speak, betrayed his emotion as he narrated how he found her corpse.

Hear him, " I was shocked when my wife said Favour hadn't returned from where she was to collect a carton of the gala(snack) because it was unusual of her to stay long outside. I went to three of her classmate's houses to look for her but they all said they didn't see her. I was walking like a mad man, asking everyone I saw about her whereabouts and it was getting dark.

" I saw a man who lives on the same street with me and told him I was looking for my daughter. He informed that he had to close early because

a little girl was raped to death in a building close to his shop.

" I decided to go and check since I was looking for my daughter and he accompanied me to the building. Behold, when I got there, it was my daughter, Favour! She laid motionless. I shouted, shook her vigorously as I called out her name, begging her to wake up. But she didn't respond. I was too shocked to believe she was gone just like that. A child I left hale and hearty while leaving the house in the morning, was gone when I returned", he said in tears.

He, therefore, appealed to anyone with information on the fleeing assailants to avail such to the police, in order for her to get justice.

Lamenting he said: " Favour was full of life. She was very brilliant. All I want is for the perpetrators of this devilish act to be brought to book".

Already, occupants of the buildings had fled for fear of being arrested by the Police.

Saturday Vanguard gathered that policemen from Ejigbo division, led by the Divisional Police Officer, CSP Olabisi Okuwobi, arrived the scene when information reached them. It was gathered that the DPO paid for the ambulance that took the corpse to the morgue.

Some suspects had already been arrested. But they denied culpability. They were said to have been transferred to the State Criminal Investigation Department, Yaba, for further investigation.

A spokesman for the Lagos State Police Command, SP Olumuyiwa Adejobi, who confirmed the incident, assured that the command would do all within its reach to ensure that the fleeing suspects were arrested.

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