Groups seek increased protection for female as police crack down on Ekiti rapists

Date: 2025-06-30

Source: https://punchng.com/groups-seek-increased-protection-for-female-as-police-crack-down-on-ekiti-rapists/

ABIODUN NEJO writes that the arrests over cases of rape made by the police in three and half months in Ekiti State is a fresh cause for concern  
  
Despite the fact that Ekiti State Government, security agencies and relevant civil society organisations in the state have been unrelenting in the fight against violence against women, rape incident still appears to be rampant.  
  
The disclosure by the Police Commissioner in Ekiti State, Joseph Eribo, recently that operatives of the State Criminal Investigations Department made arrests in 12 rape cases and two others of abuse of nine years old girls between January and mid April brought the situation to the fore once again.  
  
More worrisome is the fact that the victims in the 12 rape cases were mainly minors as the data showed cases involving nine minors and three adults. Four of the affected minors were aged three, four, five and eight years old.  
  
The state government has been fighting rape with public sensitization, laws and enforcement and as well emplacing policies that will dissuade the social vice, just as civil society organisations are coming up with various strategies to reach communities and stakeholders to eradicate rape.  
  
Among initiatives of the state government is the ‘Name and Shame’ policy whereby photographs, names and addresses of convicted rapists are placed in strategic locations to shame them and deter would-be rapists while the convicts’ names are also entered into the Sex Offenders’ Register.  
  
A lawyer and Executive Director of Gender Relevance Initiative Promotion, Mrs Rita Ilevbare, listed efforts of the state government in the regard to include “putting in place of policies and laws, political will and institutional facility like the Sexual Assault Referral Centre”.  
  
Ilevbare added that “the state Ministry of Justice is prosecuting, the Ministry of Women Affairs is providing psycho-social support and even the various preventive activities that the Office of the Wife of the Governor is embarking on.  
  
“The governor’s wife, Dr Olayemi Oyebanji, also ensures that she takes care of the children so that they can go back to school, to make them less exposed. When children are not in school and hawking around, they are likely to be exposed to violence,” Ilevbare said.  
  
But reeling out the incidents which were transferred to the State CID from various divisions and other sources between January and mid-April 2025, the police commissioner said, “On January 29, a case of rape was reported at Oye-Ekiti on behalf of a five years old victim.  
  
“The suspect, 30 years old Damilola Oladunjoye, lured the victim to his room and had carnal knowledge of her. The case has been charged to court”.  
  
The CP added that on February 2, a case of defilement of a nine-year-old girl was reported at Ikere-Ekiti. The victim was lured by the suspect, 17 years old Seun Jonathan, to his room where she was sexually assaulted. The case has been charged to court.  
  
He said, “On February 15 in Ado Ekiti, a case of defilement was reported on behalf of a four years old victim. The suspect, 15 years old Daniel Ademola, lured the girl child to an isolated place at Okeila area and took advantage of her.  
  
“The suspect confessed to the alleged crime and was subsequently charged to court”.  
  
Eribo stated that another suspected rapist, 35 years old Peter Ileteogu was arrested based on a petition received from Ekiti Sexual Assault referral Centre, Ado Ekiti, on behalf of a 15 years old victim.  
  
The police boss said, “The suspect lured the victim, who is his younger sister and sexually assaulted her. The suspect had been charged to court”.  
  
He added that one 31 years old Ademola Ariyo was also nabbed by detectives from the CID on February 27 for allegedly raping a 15 years old girl who he lured to his room.  
  
“The case was transferred from Ilupeju Division to State C.I.D, Ado-Ekiti. The case has been charged to court”.  
  
The list included the case of rape on March 4 at Ifaki Ekiti of a 25 years old, who is a younger sister to the girlfriend of the suspect, 32 years old Tosin Akindolu.  
  
Narrating how it happened, the CP said, “He lured the victim to a hotel room at Ifaki Ekiti where he forcibly had canal knowledge of her. The suspect confessed to the alleged crime and was charged to court”.  
  
Also, a 15 years old girl was allegedly raped by a 19 years old man, Taiwo Olujobi in Ado Ekiti on March 6, following which the suspect was arrested.  
  
He said, “The suspect lured the victim to his house at Okeoriomi Area of Ado Ekiti where he had canal knowledge of her. On interrogation, the suspect confessed to the alleged crime and was later charged to court”.  
  
Also, two suspected rapists, 19 years old Michael Omoyejowo and 17 years old Olamilekan Ajepe, on March 13 conspired at Ido Ekiti and gangraped their schoolmate, a 15 years old girl.  
  
The CP said, “The victim and suspects were students of the same secondary school. They lured the victim to the first suspect’s house and had canal knowledge of her. Suspects confessed to the alleged crime and were later charged to court”.  
  
In another matter, a 34 years old suspect, Ayokanmi Ojoogun, allegedly raped his employee, a 20 years old lady at Iworoko Ekiti on April 2.  
  
“The victim was the employee of the suspect in his poultry farm, where he lured her to his office within his farm and had canal knowledge of her. On interrogation the suspect confessed to the alleged crime, but claimed to be consensual sex and was charged to court”.  
  
Also, Eribo said that an eight years old girl was allegedly defiled by 55 years old Solomon Ayodele at Igede Ekiti on April 5, saying, “The suspect lured the victim to his house at Igede Ekiti where he sexually abused her. The suspect denied the alleged crime”.  
  
The police commissioner said that a case of alleged defilement of a three years old girl by a 17 years old boy, Ayomide Julius, on 15th April was referred from the Rapid Response Squad of the state police command to the CID.  
  
He said, “The victim alleged that the suspect fingered her private part in the toilet. On interrogation the suspect confessed to the crime and will be charged to court as soon as the investigation is completed.  
  
He said another rape incident occurred between students of a university at Ikere Ekiti where the suspect, 27 years old Oluwafemi Bejide, allegedly raped his 18 years old school mate on April 15.  
  
The CP said that the victim and the suspect were students of the same university, adding, “The suspect lured the victim to his house at Ikere Ekiti and forcibly had canal knowledge of her. The suspect confessed to the alleged crime. He will be charged to court as soon as the investigation is completed”.  
  
According to the police boss, two other cases involving abuse of children were recorded in the 14 months period including one referred to the CID from a Magistrates court on March 23.  
  
He said, “A nine years old girl was abused by a 35 years Amaka Nwaogalanya resident at behind Ologede Division, Ado Ekiti. The suspect was alleged to have beaten the victim and broke her arm. She was arrested, on interrogation, she confessed to the alleged crime and was charged to court.  
  
“Also, on April 2nd, a case of child abuse against a nine years old girl was reported at Ire Ekiti against 42 years old Okedunoya Owolabi. The suspect, who is the biological father of the victim beat her up and inflicted injuries all over her body.  
  
“The video went viral on social media. On interrogation the suspect confessed to the crime and was charged to court,” Eribo said.  
  
Gender advocate and Executive Director, Balm in Gilead Foundation for Sustainable Development, Dr Oluwatumininu Akerele, said, “Rape continues to occur due to entrenched patriarchal values, weak law enforcement, poor sexuality education, drug abuse and societal stigmatization of survivors”.  
  
On what could be responsible for adults having interest in violating minors, the BIGIF ED said, “Several factors contribute, including psychological disorders, distorted sexual fantasies, abuse of power and trust and harmful cultural beliefs that promote child exploitation.  
  
“In some cases, perpetrators believe children are easy targets due to their vulnerability, silence or inability to defend themselves or speak up”.  
  
She added, “However, the increase in reported cases, especially involving minors, may also reflect growing awareness, improved public education and the gradual breakdown of the culture of silence.  
  
“Survivors and families are increasingly encouraged to report and seek justice as a result of advocacy and better implementation of protective laws unlike before when cases were treated as family matters that should not be heard outside.  
  
Akerele called on society to “reject harmful norms, support survivors without stigma and normalize open conversations on child safety. Communities should have a community structure/committee to respond and address cases of abuse on children.  
  
“The Police need continuous training on handling sexual violence cases with sensitivity and urgency, especially those involving children,” the BIGIF boss said.  
  
She also urged governments to “strengthen enforcement of the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act and Child Rights Act, fund survivor-centered services, and scale up public sensitization campaigns and comprehensive sexuality education in schools.  
  
“I also advocate that special fund should be allocated to both the law enforcement agencies and community child protection structures to effectively respond to cases of Gender-Based Violence at the grass root level. At BIGIF, we emphasize the importance of community involvement in child protection. Parents and caregivers must foster trust with their children, listen to them, and know the signs of abuse”.  
  
BIGIF urged all stakeholders – government, civil society, and the media – to intensify efforts in creating safe, youth-friendly environments, saying, “Let us work together to ensure every child is protected, every survivor is supported and every offender is held accountable”.  
  
The GRIP ED, Ilevbare, blamed persistence of rape on “our cultural and societal attitude to issues that concern women, the unequal power relation, the issue that women are people that can be trampled upon or that can be treated anyhow”.  
  
She said that digging deep into the perpetrators in rape cases in the instant situation with majority of the cases having to do with minors, “you will see that the perpetrators are not far from the victims cutting across fathers, brothers, religious leaders and uncles around the premises of those children.  
  
“Such shows that men who should stand in position of protection are the ones now abusing women”.  
  
She dismissed insinuation that indecent dressing or where the female go induced rape, querying, “How did the children aged three, four and five dress? Where could three, four and five years old have gone to that would warrant their being raped? Did they go to club house, did they follow any man anywhere?”  
  
Ilevbare urged that society should channel the same energy used for issues concerning man to those concerning women, adding, “There are laws, we should allow these laws to work. In as much as society will not allow the law to take its course on violence against women, we will not hear the last of it.  
  
“But we will not be deterred – for those of us on the field, we who are human rights activists, the various NGOs especially my organization, GRIP, we will continue to push.  
  
“I want to advise that children deserve protection and care. Parents must look out for their children. It is frightening that fathers, brothers, uncles, pastors, imams are the ones even violating these children. Parents should be extra careful,” the GRIP ED said.