

## ■ 'Dead baby' case 'Why teens still in police custody?'

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RELATIVES of the two teenagers from La Brea who were held on Thursday by police in connection with the discovery of the skeletal remains of a baby are questioning why the children remain in police custody when they have done nothing wrong.

An aunt of the 13- and 14-year-olds, who wished to remain anonymous, told the *Express* the family believes this is unfair and that the police are not being co-operative toward the family.

On Thursday, around 1p.m., police found the remains of a baby in a bedroom at a house at Chin Fong Alley, Sobo Village.

The mother of the dead infant, an 18-year-old; the grandmother, a 40-year-old; and the two teens were taken into police custody, where they remained, officers confirmed yesterday.

Police suspect the baby, born in February, had been dead for eight months.

### Teens scared

The aunt said the children are scared and she believes remaining at the police station will further traumatise the children.

"They are scared and frustrated. Why they have to remain in the station for so long? We were told that the police still have to conduct interviews. Everyone in a mess.

"The police know what they doing to the mentality of these children. This whole situation is something like out of the movies. We just want the children home," said the aunt.

The aunt said she had not known about the dead infant and other relatives communicated with the teens via telephone.

The relative also said the Children's Authority was only alerted on Friday when she made the call.

An autopsy, performed at Forensic Science Centre, St James, revealed the cause of death was inconclusive.

La Brea Member of Parliament Nicole Olivierre said this was surprising news and that she was deeply saddened by this. She said as the MP, she would try to get assistance and counselling for the family.

"This is very surprising to learn about something like this could occur in the community. It's really a sad situation. Yes, through my office, we would assist as much as we can to engage the community and guide them into finding the relevant authorities to counsel them. The family needs counselling and I will do what I can to assist," said Olivierre.