

Man beats wife to death

AHMED Awagbade, a resident of 4 Ogunbanjo compound Majidun-Owutu, Ikorodu is currently cooling off in cell at the State Criminal Investigation Department, Pantl, Yaba for his alleged role in the untimely death of his wife, Mrs Fatima Awagbade. Ahmed was said to have assaulted his wife over an argument, beating her to a state of unconsciousness before she later died on the way to hospital, and before help came leaving behind a five-year-old daughter Islamiat and two year-old son, Azeez.

Narrating the incident to *Daily Champion* at SCID Pantl, Ahmed, in tears, said his wife informed him, in April that she was pregnant.

Following which he gave his late wife money to attend maternity at her usual hospital in Oshodi. But curiously, instead of

attending the said hospital, the wife opted for another hospital near their Majidun residence without his knowledge.

When discovered the development and queried the sudden change without his consent. It was at this point that he discovered there was a problem the wife was hiding from him. He said efforts to get the wife to speak on the problem proved abortive. On Monday, June 19, 2006, at their residence at night, he discovered that the woman was avoiding him. If he entered their one room apartment, she would leave the room, if he leaves the room the wife would go inside. It was at this juncture that an argument ensued. Ahmed, who is a fruit seller at Ketu fruit market claimed he did not beat the wife but he was inside when he heard a distress call from a neighbour identified

as Bashirat, who alerted him that his wife collapsed and was unconscious. He explained that he helped her on his back to a private hospital in the area with the help of some sympathisers from where they were later referred to the General Hospital, Ikorodu but before they could get help, his wife gave up the ghost.

"How can I kill my wife. I did not beat her. Who will help me take care of my young children," Ahmed lamented.

Our correspondent located the two witnesses mentioned by Ahmed to Ketu fruit market. Speaking exclusively to *Daily Champion*, a neighbour who identified himself simply as Rafiu said "if Ahmed tell you say they no quarell, na lie. They quarrelled before the wife rushed out from their room." Nobody knows wetin happen inside the room" He said though he was not there when the incident happened, other neighbours called him out and he was part of the team that offered assistance to Ahmed.

He said that as soon as Ahmed came back from the hospital to inform of the death of his wife, neighbours who had already gathered arrested him and handed him over to police in Ikorodu from where his case was transferred to (SCID) Pantl.

Daily Champion reliably gathered that the woman was buried three days after the incident according to Islamic rites.

Meanwhile, the family of the late wife at Brown Street, Oshodi is said to be not interested in the matter.

Confirming the story, the Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Olabode Ojajuni said the police is still investigating the matter to ascertain possible cause of the woman's death.



•Mr. Bode Ojajuni, Police PRO