

## News

# Baby killed, abandoned in dustbin

By Jibrin Abubakar

Police are investigating why an infant who had barely spent two hours after birth was strangled and abandoned to decompose in a dustbin.

The officer in charge of the Gauraka village in the Tafa local government of Niger state told *Daily Trust* that the tot was found in the dustbin and that a suspect has been arrested but released on bail.

The police officer who does not want his name in print, said the case has been transferred to a 'higher' police office in Niger state. He said the only suspect has pleaded not guilty to the crime.

A witness, Gambo, told *Daily Trust* that, 'I was among those who saw the body of the infant. He was dead for about three days in the dustbin before this community discovered his body. The smell was disturbing people and we traced the direction and found it lying dead in a murky dustbin because of the rain. This is unfair. We could not take it far.

We had to bury it close to where it was found. I wept for this baby because I felt he is innocent of any crime.'

According to Gambo,

'We were the ones who reported to the police and they have begun investigation.'

You need to see the baby's body. It was swollen and tearing apart when we got there.'

He added that, 'I heard that the unmarried girl who delivered the baby is accusing her mother of the crime. I learnt that the baby was born out of wedlock and the girl does not know who owns the baby out of her numerous boyfriends and that this was why her mother had to kill the baby. These are what people in the

neighbourhood are saying but the police is investigating the matter.'

The District Head (Hakimi) of Gauraka village, Alhaji Musa Abubakar, in an interview with *Daily Trust*, said the chief suspect is the grandmother of the baby who was said to have took the baby out and handed him over to men of the underworld.

'The old woman did not confess to the crime but the daughter said her mother killed her baby', he said.

He could not volunteer further information as he said

the police were investigating the case.

Niger state is one of the states that adopted the Islamic Shariah system.

However, the district head of the village regretted the numerous cases of abortion and anti-Islamic activities in Gauraka village.

He said this is the second time the village will witness a case of abandoned baby.

He assured *Daily Trust* that the killer would be brought to justice.

He said the moral degeneration in Gauraka

would be discussed at month end's security meeting involving all ethnic groups and government officials.

'For God sake, why should cruelty and hatred be unleashed on this innocent infant,?' he said.

Efforts to get the comments of the baby's mother was unsuccessful as she was said to be out of town when *Daily Trust* visited her home.

Gauraka has a cosmopolitan mixture of different ethnic and religious groups.

