

Murder of 13-yr-old girl: Convict heads to Appeal Court

From Yushau A Ibrahim, Dutse

ABUBAKAR Abdullahi, the man convicted of the murder of 13-year-old **Zainab Tanimu Ayuba** of Gwaram Local Government Area of Jigawa State, has said that he would file an appeal at the Kaduna Appeal Court because according to him, justice was not done in the judgment delivered by a High Court in Ringim.

Speaking to Daily Trust yesterday through his counsel, Barrister Friday Omoreje, Abubakar lamented that his accomplices, the current chairman of Gwaram Local Government Area of the state, Alhaji Bala Sule Kila and seven others were not brought to court, neither were they prosecuted.

"The High Court in Ringim ordered the police to arrest the chairman and the seven others and bring them to court for prosecution, but to our surprise, the order was not obeyed by the Jigawa State police commissioner," he said.

He alleged that the order was forwarded to the state's Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, Barrister Tijjani Inuwa, but that he directed that the warrant against the chairman and seven others be dropped.

He added that, after the police failed to comply with the first court order, the court issued another order directing the police to arrest the chairman and seven others, but that order was also ignored.

"Instead of the chairman to appear before the court, his counsel appeared on his behalf. It is not supposed to be so in a criminal case. The presence of the accused person is what the court needs for a genuine legal proceeding," he said.

When contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer in the state, ASP Abdu Jinjiri said, "Police have done their own part and forwarded the case the office of the Director of Public Prosecution for advice as prescribed by the law. The directives given by the court did not say that the police must arrest and detain the current chairman and seven others, rather it said police should investigate them and we have done that"

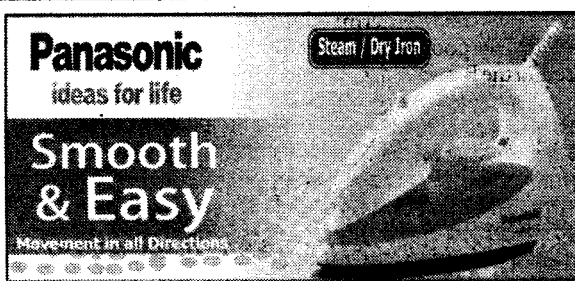
He said there was a difference between detention

and investigation, adding that police can investigate an accused person without arresting him or her.

"I want people to clearly understand that, police did not fold their arms in this case, we have done our best and we are still doing our best because the case is not yet over since the convicted person has a right to appeal," he said.

The state's Commissioner of Justice, Barrister Tijjani Inuwa Dutse on his part said the convicted person has a right to appeal.

"If the accused person has any grudges against me, his counsel as a lawyer knows how to handle the case. He knows where to take the case to for readdress, but not to the media as he has done," he added.



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