

Man sentenced to death for slaughtering friend

From Ismail Adebayo, Birnin Kebbi

A High Court in Birnin Kebbi, Kebbi State, yesterday sentenced a man, Yusuf Hussaini to death by hanging for slaughtering his friend over his refusal to give him cigarette.

Hussaini, according to the police prosecuting officer, Garba Haruna, had earlier confessed that

he slaughtered his friend, Aliyu because he refused to give him a stick of cigarette. He was said to have added that, he cut off Aliyu's neck while he was asleep.

He was arrested after the mother of the deceased, Hajiya Mariam Umar, went to see her son, but found his door locked, and after several knocks on the door, forced it open and discovered Aliyu dead.

The woman then raised an alarm, which attracted the vigilante group in the area and after investigation, Hussaini was arrested and handed over to the police.

Delivering judgment, the state's Chief Judge, justice Ibrahim Umar, said "That you, Yusuf Hussaini on or about the 13th day of April 2009, at Gidan Zana ilo district of Bagudo Local Government Area of the

state committed the offence of culpable homicide punishable with death in that you caused the death of one Musa Aliyu by slaughtering him with a knife on his neck with intention of causing his death, thereby committing an offence punishable by death under section 221B of the penal code".

He added that apart from the fact that the accused person confessed to

the crime, all available evidence proved that he killed Aliyu. The judge then said that, having followed all the necessary legal procedures, regarding homicide, the accused person was found guilty of the charge.

"I find you guilty for killing your friend, Musa Aliyu and you are thereby sentenced to death by hanging under the section 221B penal code. May God have

mercy on you," he said.

Reacting to the judgement, the defence counsel, Barrister Ahmadu Sumaru said the judge did his best.

"All the constitutional procedures were followed before judgement was given, but we will appeal the judgement," he said.

The prosecuting counsel, Barrister Hauwa Usman, on her part, described the judgement as fair.