

Man, 30, remanded for burying day old baby alive

From Aliyu M. Hamagani, Minna

A Minna Chief Magistrate's Court yesterday ordered for one Garba Mohammed to be remanded in prison custody for allegedly burying a day old baby alive sometime in October this year on the ground that the child was a bastard.

Garba Mohammed of Lokon Batagi in Mokwa Local Government Area of Niger State was said to have buried the child that was born by his daughter, Hauwa Garba out of wedlock with no one claiming responsibility as the father of the child.

Daily Trust gathered that Mohammed, a 30-year-old farmer was said to have been furious over what he considered as a shameful matter, thereby causing the death of the day old child by burying him alive.

According to the First Information Report (FIR), the incident which was reported to have occurred on October 18, 2011 is an offence contrary to section 235 of the Penal Code.

The FIR reads in part: "That you Mohammed Garba of Lokon Batagi via Gbajibo in Mokwa LGA wilfully buried alive a day old baby boy on account that your daughter Hauwa

Garba gave birth to a bastard child. You are hereby suspected to have committed the offence of causing the death of a day old baby after birth contrary to section 235 of the penal code law".

When the charges were read to the accused by the Chief Magistrate, Hassan Mohammed, the (accused) pleaded not guilty, insisting that the baby was buried after it had died.

The prosecutor of the case, Esther Philip, requested the court not to grant bail to the accused on the ground that investigation into the case was still ongoing. Meanwhile, the case has been adjourned to December 7, 2011.

Security tightened in Lagos over bomb scare

From Femi Akinola, Lagos

THE Lagos State Governor Mr. Babatunde Fashola has issued a 14-day ultimatum to civil servants to remove all abandoned vehicles within the State Secretariat, Alausa and other government offices.

The move, according to sources, may not be unconnected with growing concern over the possibility of the recent bombings orchestrated by the deadly Islamic sect, Boko Haram spilling over to Lagos.

Security reports at the Lagos State Government Secretariat, Alausa and the Old Secretariat, Ikeja, by the police revealed that the incessant parking of staff vehicles at government premises over the weekend and abandoned vehicles posed serious security threats.

Fashola, through the Head of Service, Adesegun Ogunlewe yesterday issued a circular giving workers a 14-day ultimatum to remove their abandoned vehicles from the secretariat or they would be towed to avert breach of security at the two secretariats.

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The government also saw as security threats cases whereby private vehicles now made use of government official plate numbers in connivance with some unscrupulous government staff in a bid to make quick money.

With regards to cases whereby government plate numbers are now being used by private individuals, the state government has introduced new letter codes on official number plates and will soon commence the re-registration of all vehicles attached to Ministries, Departments and Agencies, MDAs.

To tighten security, Ogunlewe said: "Abandonment of unserviceable vehicles within secretariat, either during the week days, weekends or public holidays will no longer be tolerated. MDAs and individuals are hereby given a 14-day ultimatum to remove all abandoned unserviceable vehicles from the secretariat complex. At the end of this ultimatum, such vehicles will be towed away by security personnel."

Soldiers deployed to Kafanchan over mayhem

From Isa Sa'idu, Kaduna

FIERCE looking soldiers and mobile policemen were reported to be the only visible people in the old town of Kafanchan yesterday after Wednesday's crisis that led to the deployment of the soldiers and mobile police.

A dusk to dawn curfew imposed on the town by the Kaduna State government was said to be working effectively.

Plans by a group of pressmen, including our correspondent, to enter the town yesterday morning were suspended for fear of the security situation in the town.

Residents of the area interviewed by Daily Trust on

phone confirmed that the soldiers had taken control of the town and normalcy has returned.

"There is nothing now; soldiers and other security personnel are everywhere. The 24-hour curfew is effectively working. Everything is normal now. The only problem is that people are caged and there is the problem of getting essential commodities," Malam Ahmed Baba Idris, a resident of Kafanchan, said.

Speaking with Daily Trust yesterday, the Emir of Jama'a, Alhaji Muhammad Isa Muhammadu said the deployment of the soldiers and the mobile police has helped in quelling the crisis. The emir urged his wards to respect the curfew.

In tomorrow's

WEEKLY TRUST



In border towns, life with boundaries

In spite of their strategic location and importance, the standard of living and general economy of those in the border communities is worse than that of the average Nigerian living in cities and semi-urban areas. Read why this is so in tomorrow's Weekly Trust.



After the carnage...



PICKING UP THE PIECES IN DAMATURU

"The last time I heard the sound of a rocket launcher was during the Civil War, but I heard it on Friday, 4th November, 2011," a resident of Damaturu said of the explosion that rocked the sleepy town that fateful day. One week after, hospitals in the Yobe State capital are still receiving corpses recovered from the bushes as a result of the attacks. Don't miss the gripping story.

...and MUCH MORE!

Al-Mustapha: Court passes judgment Jan 30

From Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

JUSTICE Mojisola Ayoka Dada of a Lagos High Court yesterday fixed January 30, 2012 for judgment for the former Chief Security Officer (CSO) to the late Head of State, General Sani Abacha, Major Hamza Al-Mustapha and Lateef Shofolahan in a case of conspiracy and murder filed against them by the Lagos State government.

The accused were alleged by the state government to have killed Alhaja Kudirat Abiola, wife of the acclaimed winner of the June 12, 1993 presidential election, late Bashorun MKO Abiola.

Justice Dada fixed the date after the submission of written addresses by counsel to the parties. Counsel to the defendants, Mr. Olalekan Ojo, leading five other lawyers, submitted a written address, urging the court to free the accused.

Addressing the court, Ojo hinged the defence of his clients on five key issues which he wants the court to determine.

First, he pleaded with the court to dismiss the evidence of the prosecution witnesses, saying they were unreliable. He explained that the two key prosecution witnesses, Sergeant Barnabas Mshelia, alias Rogers and Mohammed Abdul, alias Katoko,

denied their evidence-in-chief while being cross examined.

Ojo also described the statements made by the witnesses as extra judicial; stressing that Rogers while being cross-examined said the whole case was 'arrangee'.

Ojo also averred that the statements of the two witnesses have no evidential value as they are extra judicial statements, saying: "Therefore, they cannot be referred to as evidence of truth."

He said the third witness, a police officer did not conclude his evidence. Therefore, he was not cross-examined.

In his own presentation, the prosecuting counsel, Mr. Lawal Pedro (SAN) urged the court to consider the long time taken by the matter and convict the accused as charged.

He told the court that many of the witnesses vital to the case were either dead, retired or are not forthcoming.

Pedro also asked the court to determine the case based on whether the accused committed the offence or not and whether the evidence is credible or not. He contended that conspiracy does not necessarily mean meeting physically but that it could be determined by inference.

Police corporal detained over shooting of traditional ruler

From Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

THOUSANDS of youths at Ikorodu area of Lagos went on rampage yesterday evening to protest the alleged killing of the Baale of Banbelu Aparata, Chief Amos Omuiyadun, by a trigger happy police corporal.

At the end of the protest which lasted for several hours, a yet to be ascertained number of persons also sustained various degrees of bullet wounds.

Though details of the killing was still sketchy as at press time, eye witnesses alleged that the traditional ruler was eating outside his palace along with some of his children minutes before

he was shot dead. The irate youths, armed with clubs and chanting war songs, blocked all major routes leading in and out of Ikorodu to express their disappointment, bringing human and vehicular movement in the area to a standstill.

At about 4pm yesterday the youths were making frantic efforts to set the police station on fire before the Area Commander sent in reinforcement. The protesters set up bonfires in the middle of the roads, turning back Ikorodu bound vehicles.

Some of them threatened a showdown with the police, saying that enough was enough, alleging that since the creation of Area N, it had been one police harassment to the other.