

Kano teen bride who killed husband gets pardon 7 years after

From Clement A. Oloyede, Kano

Rahma Hussein, a 22-year-old woman, has been pardoned, seven years after she was convicted of killing her husband.

In 2014, Rahma, then 16 years old, was arrested and charged to a High Court in Kano for stabbing her husband to death at the Darmanawa area in Tarauni Local Government, less than a week after their wedding.

Delivering the judgement in 2018, Justice R. A. Sadik ordered that she be "detained at the pleasure of the governor of the state" because she was forcefully married and committed the offence at the age of 16.

However, the Presidential Committee on Prison Reforms and Decongestion, led by Justice Ishaq Bello, gave her respite on Friday along with 30 other inmates released from various custodial centres in the state.

In a press statement on Saturday, the spokesman of correctional centres in Kano, Musbahu Kofar-Nassarawa, said her release was "based on the recommendation of the officials of the correctional centre, who attested to her good behaviour."

He said the committee also advised the governor of Kano State, Abdullahi Ganduje, who holds the power of prerogative of mercy on her judgement, to consider the circumstances that led her to commit the offence and grant her pardon. The governor heeded their advice.

In an attached audio to the statement, Rahma expressed excitement at her release, and thanked the committee, the governor and officials of the correctional centre for facilitating her freedom.

"I am grateful to this committee. May Allah bless you. The officials of the correctional centre who recommended me to be beneficiary of this gesture, may Allah reward you abundantly," she said in tears.