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WHY I KILLED MY 10-DAY-OLD BABY

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Have you wondered why a man would kill a 10-day-old [baby](#), the production of which he engineered? What heinous crime could the baby have committed to deserve this? Is it madness? These and many more were the questions I kept asking myself when a man in Jogana village in [Gabasawa Local](#) Government Area of [Kano State](#) of Nigeria was on Wednesday reported to have confessed before a Chief Magistrate Court that he killed his 10-day-old baby.

He told [the court](#) that he killed the baby so as to [conceal the truth](#) that he impregnated a [woman](#) out of wedlock. Can you imagine such a flimsy excuse? He said: "I was trying to conceal it from my father, who will not be happy with me if he learnt that I impregnated the woman. But after my arrest, the story leaked to him and he even visited me in detention. I killed the baby and secretly bathed the body in accordance with Islamic injunctions. I also prayed for the body before heading for cemetery for burial". Callous! Madness! Cruelty!

Meanwhile, the police have reported that investigations revealed that the man fed the baby with pesticide known in local parlance as shinkafa kpera.

A man like this deserves the total punishment specified under the Penal code after all, he had the option of getting married if he did not want to impregnate a woman out of wedlock. Even if he was not ready for marriage with the woman, has he never heard of the word 'condom'? Why should the innocent baby pay for his negligence and omissions? Our law does not and never encouraged homicide. Am quite sure that his father is now "happy" as he is facing trial after all he has satisfied him by "not impregnating a woman out of wedlock".

In the meantime, human rights' groups have condemned this callous act and are calling for the heavy sledge hammer of the court to fall on the man to discourage the killing of infants in our societies.

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