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Two lynched in Jigawa over witchcraft allegation

FRIDAY, 06 SEPTEMBER 2013 00:00 FROM JOHN AKUBO, DUTSE NEWS - METRO



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TWO women, Maryam Ashiru (60 years old) and one Asiya Ashiru of **Kila village Gwaram Local Council of Jigawa State**, have been lynched over allegation of being witches.

Both women were attacked around 9.00p.m. on Tuesday by some villagers following **the death of a middle-aged man, Abubakar Sule, suspected to have been killed through witchcraft by one of his family members.**

Narrating the incident, the son of one of the victims, Maryam Ashiru (Lami), who is also a student of Sa'adatu Rimi College of Education Kano, Sani Ashiru, said the villagers attacked their house and killed his aged mother and his sister following the death of their neighbour.

He said about three years ago, when an elder brother to Abubakar Sule fell sick and died, "the family of the deceased and some persons accused our family of killing him. The matter was settled at a Sharia Court after we swore by the Holy Q'uran that we were not witches and that we were not responsible for his death."

Sani added that a few weeks earlier, Abubakar Sule became ill and his family also accused us of being responsible for his ill-health. They threatened to kill all our family members if the man died and unfortunately, he died.

"Shortly after his death, some members of the deceased family and other villagers attacked our house. However, before they reached our compound, virtually had run away, leaving my helpless aged mother and my sister in the house.

"The attackers, without any hesitation, killed my mother and my sister and also mutilated their bodies. They also razed our house with all our belongings inside."

Continuing, he said: "I can swear that we are not witches. Simply because we are less-privileged, some people in the village hate us and always label us witches".

"As I am talking to you, I don't know where my other family members are and none of the arsonists has been arrested."

He said he was not in the position to hire any lawyer to follow up the case but called on the Jigawa State government, human rights groups and the Legal Aid Council to come to their rescue by "ensuring that justice is done in the matter."

All efforts to contact the spokesperson of the state police command proved abortive as his phones did not go through.

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