

Another woman stabs husband to death as Maryam Sanda to die by hanging

From Danjuma Michael, Katsina and Oludare Richards, Abuja

A 19-year-old woman, Rabi Shamsudeen, has stabbed her 25-year-old husband, Shamsudeen Salisu, to death at Danjanku village, in Malumfashi local government area of Katsina State. The incident, which occurred yesterday morning at about 4:00a.m. was due to a misunderstanding between the young couple.

Neighbours, who said they heard the deceased crying for help, had rushed to their house where they met a locked front door. Some of them however managed to climb over the wall where they met the deceased crawling out of a room and bleeding from a stomach wound.

They were said to have also seen the deceased's wife standing close by and holding onto a kitchen knife stained with blood. Some of the neighbours were said to have rushed the deceased to the hospital where doctors pronounced him dead.

Spokesperson for the police command in the state, SP Gambo Isah, confirmed the incident.

According to Isah, the police "received a report that one Rabi Shamsudeen, 19, of Danjanku village, Malumfashi local government area of Katsina State, stabbed her husband with a knife, one Shamsudeen Salisu, 25.

"What really happened was that the neighbours overheard the deceased person shouting, calling for assistance. Immediately, they reached the house, met the front door of the house locked, and



there was no way they could gain entrance.

"Some of them decided to scale through the fence of the house and what they saw was very disturbing. They met him crawling, coming out from his room with a knife wound. We are investigating to find out what transpired before the dastardly act was committed."

Meanwhile, the woman accused of stabbing her husband, Bilyaminu, to death, Maryam Sanda, was yesterday sentenced to death by hanging by a high court of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) presided by Justice Yusuf Halilu Bello.

The police accused Sanda of stabbing her husband multiple times at about 3:50a.m. on November 19, 2017. Bilyaminu is the late

son of a former national chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP). Delivering judgment, Justice Yusuf convicted Maryam on circumstantial evidence. The police insisted the killing was premeditated. The police also accused Sanda's mother, Maimuna Aliyu; her brother, Aliyu; and Sadiya Aminu, her housemaid, of tampering with evidence by cleaning the blood and other elements of proof from the crime scene, but the charges were later dropped. They were charged with conspiracy in the murder case.

Maryam who had filed a no case submission in the case is a nursing mother. She had the baby during the period of the case. Justice Yusuf dismissed

Sanda's statement that her husband fell on a broken Shisha pot during a fight on the day of the incident as a "smokescreen to deceive the court".

He ruled that there was compelling evidence to convict Sanda. The judge said available evidence proved that the accused stabbed her husband with a kitchen knife with intent to "kill".

In a dramatic development, after the judge gave the guilty pronouncement, Sanda made attempt to run out of the courtroom as reactions followed with her relatives shouting in a dramatic attempt to draw public sympathy. What followed was a short break called for by the judge to restore calm. The sentence was delivered

after the court resumed reading of the judgment.

Earlier in the case, counsel to the accused, Regina Okotie-Eboh, argued that the prosecution failed to prove the allegations, adding that the nurses or doctors from the hospital where the deceased was taken to were not called as witnesses in the case.

Also, Okotie-Eboh added that they failed to tender the knife with which the defendant allegedly used to perpetrate the act. One of the six witnesses called by the prosecution, Ibrahim Mohammed, told the court that the marriage between Maryam and late Bilyaminu reached the peak on the night of the incident.

Also, multiple court testimonies, including that of

the accused, indicated that the criminal action was triggered by a heated argument between the couple. Sanda allegedly issued many threats to her husband, including threat to chop off his sex organ if he declined to grant her divorce.

Mohammed, who said he was with the late Bilyaminu for over eight hours that night said the argument eventually degenerated into a fight. The witness said he tried disengaging Sanda's hand from her husband's neck before she rushed to break a bottle of groundnut on the wall and tried stabbing her husband with it.

"I held her hands and Bilyaminu went behind her and collected the broken bottle from her. She said she would not stop until Bilyaminu divorced her that night and that either he divorced her or she would cut his private part," the witness said.

Mohammed added that Sanda went to the kitchen and picked a knife with which she attempted again to stab the deceased. The witness said the late husband sustained several cuts while trying to disarm his wife.

The witness said he left the house with another friend who he had called to help separate the fight, thinking that calm had been restored only to receive news of his friend's death in the morning.

Sanda's relatives allegedly assisted her in cleaning up the crime scene and no autopsy was carried out to ascertain the actual cause of Bello's death.