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# Appeal Court In Benin Affirms House Wife's Death Sentence



By Francis Onoiribholo

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**BENIN** – The Court of Appeal sitting in Benin has upheld the death sentence of the woman who connived with her male friend to kill her husband in Benin City.

The Appellant, Mrs. Enobong Isonguyo, who was the second accused person during the trial, together with the 1st accused person – one Pastor Prince Udoka Ukachukwu, connived and conspired to kill her husband (the deceased).

The Appellant and the 1st Accused Person were charged before the Edo State High Court sitting in Benin with conspiracy to commit murder and murder of the deceased (Appellant's

husband – Victor Gabriel Isunguyo) to which they both pleaded not guilty. In proof of the charge, the prosecution called eight witnesses and tendered several exhibits.

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At the end of the trial, the Judge in a well-considered judgment, believed the evidence of the Prosecution witnesses and consequently found the Accused Persons guilty of the two-count charge and sentenced them to death.

The Co-Accused Man Friend did not bother to challenge his conviction but the wife, Mrs. Enobong Isonguyo, dissatisfied with the Judgment of the Trial Court, appealed to the Court of Appeal seeking to have her conviction and sentence set aside and a verdict of acquittal entered in her favour.

At the hearing of the appeal, Counsel to the Appellant, Olayiwola Afolabi Esq. argued that the offence of murder was not successfully proved at the lower court and urged the appellate court to quash the conviction.

On his part, Counsel to the Respondent (The State) led by the Solicitor-General and Permanent Secretary, Edo State Ministry of Justice, Oluwole O. Iyamu (SAN), argued that all the elements of murder were copiously established by the direct evidence of the Appellant as well as evidence of the IPO, other Police Officers and other witnesses who testified for the state.

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The Learned Silk then urged the court to dismiss the appeal and uphold the judgment of the lower court.

In its reserved judgment delivered on 26th March, 2020, the Court of Appeal resolved the sole issue for determination in favour of the Respondent, agreed with the submissions of the learned counsel to the Respondent, Oluwole O. Iyamu SAN, dismissed the appeal in its entirety and upheld the conviction of the Appellant by the lower court.

Delivering the lead judgment, Honourable Justice M.A.A. Adumein J.C.A, held that it is true that the Appellant connived with her Man Friend for whom she was already pregnant (as DNA test result revealed), to murder her husband in cold blood.

The court held that the Appellant by her action, made herself a public example of the highest order, of an unvirtuous woman.

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