

NEWS

Woman acquitted of six-year old boy's murder

By Joseph Jibueze

A WOMAN accused of murdering a six year-old boy was yesterday acquitted by a Lagos State High Court, Ikeja, because the prosecution failed to prove the case beyond reasonable doubt.

Mrs Kehinde Folami was charged in May last year with one count of killing Wasiu Afolabi in Ikorodu, Lagos State on May 25, 2008.

Afolabi's mother said she sent his only son to Folami's shop at about 6.30pm to buy a candle, but he never returned. The family and neighbours searched everywhere but could not find him.

The police said the deceased's remains were found the next day in a cooler in Folami's shop.

Justice Habib Abiru said

Police quiz man over daughter's murder

By Adegunle Olugbamila

DETECTIVES at the Homicide Unit of the Criminal Investigation Department (FCID) are grilling one Mr Jonah Odubada, who allegedly tortured his daughter to death in Badagry, a Lagos suburb.

The victim, 19-year-old Kehinde, was until her death, a petty trader and lived with her husband in Cotonou, Republic of Benin.

Odubada was said to have been uncomfortable with the choice of his daughter's husband, which had widened the gulf between the duo, according to an eye witness's account.

The Nation gathered that Odubada, a farmer, who lived in Idosiju Quarters, Imeke Badagry, was said to have invited the deceased

home on October 7, via a distress call. The suspect reportedly beat up his daughter, and thereafter tied her to a stake before another accomplice, a spiritualist who also lived in the area, was invited to apply incisions on the deceased's body. It was in the process that Kehinde reportedly died. The father then hid the body in his house until the following evening (Sunday), and with the assistance of two neighbours- Ganiyu Amusa and Emmanuel Odubada buried Kehinde secretly on a land bequeathed to the deceased by her late mother", an eyewitness who pleaded anonymity claimed.

Residents, who were disturbed by Kehinde's cry of

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anguish became suspicious the following day and confronted Odubada, who confessed to the crime.

The Divisional Police Officer (DPO) of the Badagry Police Station where the case was initially reported, told *The Nation* on phone that Odubada claimed her late daughter was mentally challenged, becoming uncontrollably wild, noting that he had no choice than invite a spiritualist to administer incisions on her.

But many of Odubada's neighbours disputed his claims, saying the deceased was hale, hearty and of sound mind.

"She had lived here for many years before she got married and we all knew she was not a mad woman", said a resident who pleaded anonymity.

Another resident said: "We have both Christian and Muslim burial grounds

in this community. If Odubada was not up to some game, why did he bury her daughter at midnight when everybody was asleep and why bury her in the bush when we have two burial grounds?"

Other residents said Kehinde who was once married to a native of the community, and had an issue for him about four years ago, before her second marriage was mentally okay for as long as her first marriage lasted.

The Police Public Relations Officer (PRO), Samuel Jinadu, confirmed the incident and the arrest of Odubada and Ibileru.

"The case has since been transferred to the Criminal Investigation Department Panti for investigation," he told our reporter.