

rebuild the road. We are therefore appealing to Lagos State government to help us repair

from here."

Commercial sex worker sentenced to death for murder of two-yr-old

A commercial sex worker, Mercy Ogie, has been sentenced to death by an Ado Ekiti High Court after she was found guilty of murder. In a ruling delivered by the state Chief Judge, Justice Ayodeji Daramola, Ogie was convicted of killing a two year-old, Praise Ebong. Ogie was said to have conspired with one Efe to steal the baby at Iroba area of Ado-Ekiti on November 26, 2011.

The prosecution counsel, Olorunfemi Alabi, called five witnesses to prove the case against the accused person.

Alabi, who is the Deputy Director of Public Prosecution, told the court that the mother of the baby had left her child with one Damilola, while she travelled to Ikere-Ekiti.

On her return, the boy's mother learnt that one Efe had taken away Praise on the pretext of buying him biscuits in the neighbourhood.

The prosecution also revealed that evidence proved that Efe was Mercy Ogie's lover and not her son as believed in some quarters.

Alabi testified that when Efe was contacted on the telephone, he admitted that it was Ogie that sent him to steal the child and that the boy (Praise) had been sold off, an allegation the accused neither denied nor

■ Odunayo OGUNMOLA, Ado Ekiti ■ confirmed.

In her defence, Ogie explained that Efe was her live-in lover.

The defense counsel, Chris Omokhafa, denied that Ogie conspired with Efe to steal or murder Praise.

Omokhafa contended that none of the prosecution witnesses established evidence that the missing child, Praise, was dead but that the child was taken away by Efe.

Justice Daramola said an accused person can be convicted for murder even if the body of a victim was not found and that there is enough compelling circumstantial evidence that the accused person killed the deceased.

Justice Daramola was of the opinion that circumstantial evidence may be a combination of circumstances against the accused, none of which if taken, can form cogent proof of guilt, but when taken together, create strong conclusion of guilt "with a high degree of mathematical accuracy."

The presiding judge held that the accused defences were characterised by "tissue of lies, inconsistencies and self-contradictions".

Justice Daramola, who found Ogie guilty of the charge, consequently sentenced her to death by hanging.