

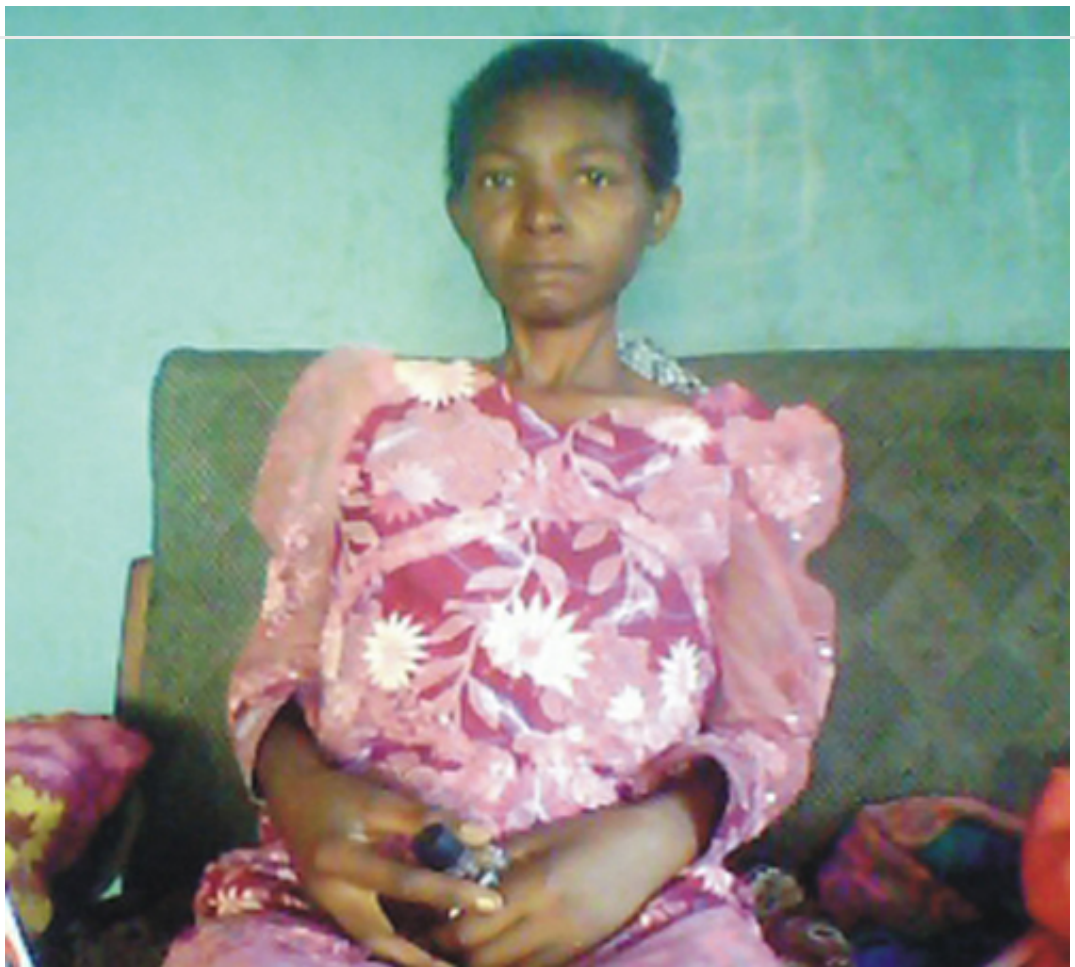
Ondo community spoils for war with popular Ekiti herbalist for allegedly forcing man to sleep with daughter

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Busayo... a shadow of herself shortly before she died

A famous herbalist in a popular Ekiti town (names withheld) , has been accused of allegedly forcing one of his customers, one Clement, to make love to his daughter in a bid to exorcise 'evil spirit' from her body.

Clement was said to have taken his 35-year-daughter Busayo, to the herbalist some time in May last year, for the purpose of casting out the evil spirit.

It was learnt that Clement left his hometown, Ogbagi Akoko in Akoko North West Local Government Area of Ondo State, with his daughter to see the herbalist at the Ekiti town.

The death of Busayo on April 17, 2016, has sparked tension in Ogbagi with the chiefs of the town spoiling for war with the Ekiti-based herbalist.

Community leaders in Ogbagi alleged that the herbalist, who runs a radio programme to promote his work, ordered Clement to have an illicit sex with his daughter after giving them some fetish objects.

Clement, allegedly confessed to the Ogbagi chiefs that herbalist ordered him to caress his daughter's private part and suck her breast to ward off spirit husband.

Although the herbalist denied knowing Clement, the latter, however, maintained that he is in possession of a consultation card issued to him by the herbalist.

To prove his innocence, Ogbagi chiefs has challenged the herbalist to come over to their community and swear to a traditional oath.

One of the traditional chiefs of Ogbagi, who identified himself simply as Chief Oshodi, described the incident as an abomination that has terrible consequences in their community.

He said: "Clement and his daughter Busayo are both from our town, Ogbagi-Akoko. He fathered Busayo when he was very young and later separated with her mother, so they have not been living together for a long time now. However, because a child had cemented their relationship, Clement still related with his daughter and her mother in spite of the separation.

"When on April 17, 2016, Busayo who had been sick in a strange way, suddenly died under strange circumstances, some family members cried out, alleging that he must have been the cause of his daughter's sudden death.

"He was also putting up very strange behaviour. It was gathered that shortly before Busayo passed on, she confessed to her mother that a strange thing had happened between her and her father when they visited the herbalist at the Ekiti town.

"She said that her father had asked her to follow him to the herbalist's place and described the herbalist's place at the Ekiti town, as one built on a small hill and painted red. She said they met an elderly man at the gate of the building who directed them to the herbalist's secretary.

"Busayo said further that on getting to the building, a lady asked them to pay a sum of N1,000 as consultation fee, which they did before they were allowed to see the herbalist. She added that there were expensive vehicles, including a limousine and Hummer jeep, inside the premises.

"The young lady added that the herbalist turned out to be the same old man they had met at the gate who had directed them to his secretary. She said when her father explained to him the motive for their visit, he told him to pay a sum of N135,000 for a permanent cure to his ailment as many fetish materials would be procured for the treatment.

"Busayo said that they pleaded with the herbalist to reduce the fee as they had only N15,000 on them and could only part with N10,000 because they would need the remaining N5,000 for transport back home.

"After much persuasion, Busayo said the herbalist accepted and gave some concoction to Clement and asked him to 'forcibly' vomit something by opening his mouth three times. She said after this, her father vomited a strange object, which the herbalist showed, her saying that it was part of the evil deposits that caused Busayo's

illness.

“Having done that, Busayo said the herbalist took his father into a room for a while. She said it was then she took a quick glance round the fetish room where the herbalist hosted them and saw fetish objects that made the room look like a dumpsite.

“She said there were calendars showing pictures of some prominent pastors of some popular churches in the country; another calendar displaying a caricature of Jesus Christ and some other religious materials belonging to both Christians and Moslems.

“Busayo alleged further that when the herbalist returned to the room with her father, he told her that she was afflicted with a spiritual problem which he identified as spirit husband. The girl said she believed what the herbalist said because a certain cleric had earlier told her the same thing, adding that with such problem, she wouldn’t have progress in life.

“According to Busayo, the herbalist told them that her problem would be solved only if her father gets intimate with her by caressing her private part and sucking her breast, an act the herbalist allegedly commanded that they start doing immediately.

“She said that at first, they refused to do such thing decrying that it was an abomination, but the herbalist insisted that it was what must be done so that Busayo’s problem would be solved once and for all. He also wanted them to start doing it right there.

“The young woman said she had to reluctantly accept and her father did to her as instructed by the herbalist. She added that the herbalist told them to repeat the act again around midnight.”

According to Chief Oshodi, Busayo alleged that she noticed that since she had carried out the herbalist’s instruction with her father, her health condition had been depreciating. She soon became critically ill and was emaciating. Her once robust and youthful body turned lean and scary.

Chief Oshodi added that the young woman couldn’t make the confessions until her condition worsened to that critical stage because of the custom in the community, which places an open disgrace on anyone who commits such abomination.

Oshodi describes the punishment: “The culprit would be paraded round the town, while many would sing shameful songs against him or her”, adding that Busayo’s condition worsened until her death on April 17.

“It was this confession that angered members of the community and made them to apprehend her father and forced him to confess also. After he was paraded round the town as it is our custom, Clement confessed and corroborated what his late daughter had said. That is why we are telling the whole world about this development now,” Chief Oshodi said.

When reporters called the herbalist on phone and asked for his reactions to the allegations, he said: “I don’t know those people. They were never my clients. In fact, if you come to check the records of my visitors which I take

daily, you won't find their names there because they were never here. "the herbalist later told reporters to speak to a man he identified as his lawyer whom he handed over the phone. But on requesting for the identity of the man, he turned out to be a freelance radio journalist (names withheld) in Ekiti. In what appeared like covering up for the herbalist, the freelance broadcaster replied that the allegations by the Ogbagi-Akoko council of chiefs against the herbalist were untrue. When asked while he was defending the herbalist since he was not his lawyer, the freelance broadcaster said he was entitled to his own opinion about the herbalist and maintained that all that has been alleged against the herbalist was false.

Reacting to the herbalist's denial of the allegations, Chief Oshodi said: "They say the herbalist said he doesn't know Clement and Busayo , that the two of them never came to his house for help, in spite of the girl (Busayo)'s vivid description of his house and sacred rooms?

"Anyway, we will only accept it if he (the herbalist) can come to our palace and for oath-taking to clear himself of the allegations. Let me tell you, no matter how powerful he is as an herbalist, if what both Busayo and Clement said about him is true and he comes here to take the oath, he would not survive it in seven days.

"We are not arguing with him, if truly he is a herbalist with clean hands, let him come to our king's palace for the oath, he would simply put his head against the royal seat of our traditional monarch, then we will know who is telling lies or the truth in just seven days."

The Nation learnt that the matter was not reported to the police because the community leaders in Ogbagi Akoko prefer to use traditional method to adjudicate on the matter.