

Metro

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... crime, security, court

Dismissed soldier to die by hanging for killing girlfriend over text message

A Plateau State High Court sitting in Barkin Ladi, on Wednesday, sentenced a 34-year-old dismissed soldier, Sunday Umaru, to death by hanging for hacking his lover to death over a message found on her phone.

According to the *News Agency of Nigeria (NAN)*, Justice S.P. Gang handed down the sentence, after finding Umaru guilty of killing his girlfriend, Charity Thomas, on January 23, 2016.

Delivering the judgment, Gang declared that Umaru "mercilessly took the life of Charity Thomas in cold blood" and had to face the full wrath of the law.

"This sentence is mandatory; the law states that any person convicted of murder shall be punished with death by hanging.

"The sentence of this court upon you is that you, Sunday Umaru, will be hanged by the neck until you are dead. May God have mercy on your soul."

NAN recalled that Umaru,

an ex-soldier, was dragged before the court on July 14, 2016, for allegedly killing his lover.

Umaru, a married man, was a Private in the Nigerian Army and was serving at the Special Task Force (STF), Sector 7, Barkin Ladi, at the time of the incident on January 23, 2016.

At his arraignment, Umaru faced a one-count charge of culpable homicide.

He was specifically accused of killing Charity, who visited him from Kaduna State, by stabbing her with a knife in

the stomach and dumping the body on the roadside.

According to the prosecutor, Emmanuel Awe, the accused person committed the crime on January 23, 2016 in Barkin Ladi Local Government Area of Plateau State.

Awe, while reading out the charge, said that Charity's body was found the next day by neighbours and some soldiers, who trailed the blood marks to the accused person's house.

"Friends of the convict who were military men

that evacuated the body, also recognised the girl as Umaru's lover, who was seen with him the previous day."

The convict, he further told the court, quickly fled his base and returned to his family at the Rukuba Barracks in Bassa Local Government Area.

The prosecutor said that a team of military men mobilised and went after the convict and arrested him at his home in the barracks, while in the company of his family.

He said that during investigation, the police discovered

several gory pictures and videos of the deceased found in the accused phone, immediately after the murder.

NAN also reported that the Nigerian Army quickly tried the accused and dismissed him, after finding him guilty of killing his lover.

Counsel to the accused, Mr David Adudu, told NAN after the judgment that he was not satisfied with the death sentence passed by the court.

"I will get a copy of the judgment, study same and raise possible grounds for an appeal," he said.

Three arraigned for allegedly impersonating INEC workers in Lagos

