

Domestic Violence/Murder

State southwest, Nigeria.

*Daily Champion* reported that the woman's husband, Ahmed Awagbade, a fruit seller and a resident of 4 Ogunbanjo compound Majidun Owutu, Ikorodu assaulted his pregnant wife over an argument, beating her to a state of unconsciousness before she later died on the way to the hospital, leaving behind a five year old daughter Islamat and a two year old son, Azeez.

Ahmed in his narration said his wife informed him of her pregnancy in April 2006 and he gave her some money to register for antenatal in their family hospital. However the wife registered at another hospital and explained to him why she had done so. Not contented with her explanation, Ahmed still queried the wife about the change of hospital without his consent. According to him, he began noticing so changes in his wife's conduct, as if there was something she was hiding from him. All efforts to get the wife to speak on the problem proved abortive, he added.

On June 19, 2006 the fateful day, that the wife died, he said he discovered that the wife was avoiding him in their two rooms' apartment and an argument ensued. He said he did not beat up his wife during the argument, but rather she left him and went outside. He claimed he was still inside his room when he heard his neighbours called him out to see his wife unconscious. With the assistance of his neighbours, he carried her on his back to a private hospital and she died on the way.

Contradicting this statement, an eyewitness said Mrs. Ahmed ran out of the room after a fight with her husband and collapsed outside, which made them call out to him to come outside immediately. According to the eye witness, neighbours assisted him to carry her to a private hospital. However as soon as they heard of his wife's death the neighbours all gathered together and apprehended Ahmed,

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handing him over to the police in Ikorodu before his case was transferred to the State Criminal Investigation Department, SCID, Panti, Lagos. (*Daily Champion, June 30, 2006*)

41. A former Commissioner of Women Affairs in Anambra State was allegedly murdered by her son in Awka, Anambra State, south-east, Nigeria.

The report contained in the *Daily Sun* claimed that, the commissioner Chief Mrs. Uzor Obi-Okoli was shot dead by her son with her husband's gun in the dead of night in her bedroom. The son, Chuka Okoli a 27-year-old undergraduate and the second son of Mrs. Okoli, after the killing, fled in her car to Lagos where the police arrested him. They brought him back to Awka where he allegedly made confessional statements. He said he shot his mother because she kept reminding him of his unruly past records. (*Daily Sun, July 14, 2006*)

42. A pregnant woman was allegedly hacked to death by her husband in Ekpeme village Ahoada, Rivers State, south south, Nigeria.

According to the *Daily Sun*, the tragedy stuck after the pregnant woman Umeshem, a mother of one demanded that her live-in lover for three years, Udo Zoro pays her dowry or else she would terminate the four months pregnancy she was carrying. He told her that her demand was not his priority because he had no money and he left for to run his Okada business.

When he got back, his parents with whom they lived with in the family compound, and who were aware of Umeshem's demands, encouraged their son to look for money for the initial marriage rites so they could meet her relations since Umeshem was an orphan. Angered by what his parents suggested, Udo charged into his room

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and emerged with a cutlass with which he went after his father. Seeing that his son had gone beserk, the old man ran into a nearby church for refuge thus escaping death from the hands of his son.

Later in the night, Udo, his wife and son retired to bed. While undressing for bed, the unsuspecting woman did not realize that her husband was behind her with a cutlass. He used the cutlass to slash away her head from her neck. Therafter Udo went into a nearby bush, climbed a tall Pea tree and allegedly committed suicide. The matter was immediately reported to the police and homicides detectives swung into action to investigate the double tragedy. (*Daily Sun, July 26 2006*)

43. A 60-year-old woman, (names withheld) was allegedly hacked to death by her grandson in a bush in Umuebu in Ukwuani local government area of Delta State, south south, Nigeria.

The report from the *Vanguard* stated that, the woman went to the bush with her grandson (name with-held) to fetch firewood and was not seen alive again. The villagers declared her missing and organized a search party to look for her. Her body was later found covered with her blood in the bush. The suspect was alleged to have killed his grandmother with a cutlass and ran amok. (*Vanguard, July 4 2006*)

44. A housewife, Mrs. Akanmu was allegedly beaten to death by her husband who wanted to teach her a lesson at Aguntan, Ajah in Lagos State, south-west, Nigeria.

Reporting the incident, the *Punch* had it that, the husband, Mr. Akanmu, engaged his wife in a scuffle the cause of which could not be ascertained as at press time. Akanmu wanting to teach his wife a lesson rejected all entreaties from his neighbours as he beat his

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wife to a stupor. She became unconscious and was rushed to a nearby hospital for treatment but no sooner had she brought into the hospital than she was confirmed dead by the doctor.

The incident was reported to the police who visited the scene and apprehended the suspect. (*The Punch, July 4, 2006*)

45. A 33-year-old lady, Mrs. Folake Faranpojo was granted a divorce after 11 years of marriage by a Grade A Customary Court in Agege, Lagos, southwest, Nigeria.

The *Vanguard* in its report, said that, the petitioner was married to the respondent her husband Mr. Faranpojo and had four children. She alleged that her husband beats her up regularly like an animal. According to her, he also stole her money and threatened to kill her while staying away from home for periods of 90 days without caring for his family.

She payed the court to grant her custody of the children with a monthly feeding allowance of N10, 000 from the respondent. The President of the court ruled that from all indications the marriage had broken down irretrievably and dissolved it accordingly. (*Vanguard, July 5, 2006*)

46. A housewife, Mrs. Patricia Igwe had her marriage dissolved over the death of her 8-year-old son allegedly used by her husband for human sacrifice in Ojo, Lagos, south west Nigeria.

According to the *Saturday Sun*, a Grade A Customary Court at Ojo dissolved the 16 years old marriage following allegation by Mrs. Igwe that her husband, Mr. Ikechi Igwe in 1995 told his wife that for his business to grow, he had to do a blood sacrifice and their 8-year-old son died after her husband returned from a journey