

## Community disturbed over woman's killing

**Francis Falola, Minna**

**M**EMBERS of Izom Community in Gurara Local Government Area of Niger State are disturbed over the killing of a woman by some youths suspected to be Islamic fundamentalists.

Irate youths had, on Wednesday, stoned the woman to death for allegedly dropping pamphlets said to be against the person of Prophet Mohammed in a mosque.

The youth were said to have mobilised themselves, attacked the police station where the woman was kept in safe custody and stoned her to death.

A community leader in the area, Alhaji Muhammed Hussaini, in an interview with our correspondent on Thursday, described the development as unfortunate.

He said, "This development is unfortunate. This is a peaceful community where the people live together peacefully irrespective of their religious or ethnic differences. This incident is a shocking development to us."

He regretted that the incident had sent jitteries down the spines of most residents in the area, especially the non-natives.

"We have appealed to all the people in the community not to panic over the development as there is no going to be any further escalation of the crisis.

"We cannot say much now about the victim, some people claimed she came from a neighbouring town, Suleja, others said she is mentally unstable. What we know is that

she is new here and this has made it difficult for us to ascertain where she came from, but most people suspected that she was a Christian," she said.

The Secretary, Christian Association of Nigeria, Niger State branch, Rev. Samuel Shaba, also expressed shock over the development.

Shaba, in a telephone interview with our correspondent, said the state chapter of CAN would meet on the development and other issues on Friday (today).

He appealed to Christians to remain calm, adding that the need for peaceful co-existence among all, irrespective of their religious affiliation could not be overemphasised.

Reacting to the incident, the Police Public Relations Officer, Niger State Command, Mr. Lawal Shinkhafi, assured the people of the area of safety of lives and properties.

He urged the people to go about their lawful duties without fear or favour.