

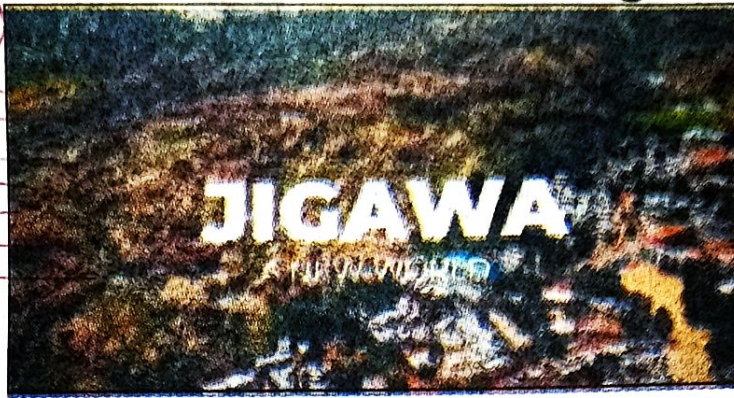
# Mixed reactions trail death sentence on Jigawa couple, siblings

Salisu Kabuga, Dutse

**M**IXED reactions have continued to trail the Jigawa State High Court's death sentences passed on a couple, and the wife's two siblings for the killing of one Salamatu Musa, a 30-year-old woman accused of witchcraft.

The High Court No. 5, sitting within the judicial complex in Dutse sentenced the four individuals to death by hanging over charges related to criminal conspiracy and culpable homicide.

The judgment, delivered by the presiding judge of the court, Hon. Justice Ado Yusuf Birnin-Kudu followed a serious legal process that began since 2019, when the convicts were arrested and prosecuted before the court.



The convicts included both husband and wife on one hand, the wife's brother and her sister; all were found guilty of murdering Salamatu Musa, the 30-year-old woman accused of witchcraft.

In his ruling on December 4, 2024, Justice Birnin-Kudu submitted, "The court finds the

accused guilty of committing the offence with full knowledge of its probable consequence: death. Therefore, the court hereby sentences them to six years imprisonment each for criminal conspiracy and death by hanging for culpable homicide."

Accordingly, the court stated

that it has been convinced that the convicts conspired to attack Salamatu Musa with a stick, leading to her death.

They (the four convicts) alleged that the deceased was a witch whose supposed evil acts caused the death of their son.

The accused persons, identified as: Hassan Isah (55), Adama Yahaya (42), Abdullahi Yahaya (35), and Maryam Daso Yahaya (28), were all residents of the Kwan-Dole Village in Mallam-Madori Local Government Area of Jigawa State.

Speaking on the judgment, the Director of Protocol and Publicity for the Jigawa State Judiciary, Abbas Rufa'i Wangara noted that the judgment underscored the Judiciary's commitment to upholding the rule of law and ensuring justice for all, irrespective of social or cultural beliefs.

The DPP stressed that, during the trial, the prosecution presented five witnesses, a medical report, and the convicts' confessional statements.

"The evidence convinced the court beyond reasonable doubt of their guilt under Sections 97 and 221(b) of the Penal Code Laws," he added.

However, he reminded that the convicts have a chance of 90 days to appeal against the judgment if they were not satisfied.

*Arewa PUNCH*, meanwhile, reports that the landmark ruling has sparked intense debate among the public and judiciary watchers, with various stakeholders weighing in on its cultural and legal implications.

Hajiya Fatima Mohammed, a Jigawa-based Human Rights Activist, said, "This judgment sends a strong message against jungle justice and promotes the rule of law. It's a victory for human rights and justice."

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## 3 Gombe villagers lament herders-farmers' killings, demand intervention

Chima Azubuike, Gombe

**S**EVERAL residents of Wajari Village in Yamaltu-Deba Local Government Area of Gombe State have expressed grief and frustration over a recent attack by suspected Fulani herdsman, which claimed the life of a community member, Ali Abubakar, and left his family devastated.

Abubakar, a father of six, was reportedly killed during the attack, and the herders also grazed their farmlands and made away with their cows.

His brother, Babayo Abubakar, speaking with *Arewa PUNCH* on behalf of the bereaved family, lamented the lack of governmental intervention or sympathy.

*Arewa PUNCH* reports that the issue of farmers-herders conflict is not unique to Wajari. Residents of Kwami LGA, particularly Bojude village, also reported similar incidents, which they claimed occur



• Slain Abubakar's family members



• A community leader annually.

"No government official has come to sympathise with us. We



• One of the killed cows

are suffering, and no committee for farmers and herders exists in our area to address these recurring conflicts," Babayo said.

Aisha Ali, one of the late Abubakar's daughters, called for divine justice. "Our father was killed by Fulani herdsmen. They have grazed our farm. Definitely, Allah will punish them," she stated tearfully.

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