



•Iyo

# Fisherman hacks grandmother to death

## ■ Says she is a witch

BY CHIOMA IGBOKWE

**T**ragedy struck in Ogu/Bolo Local Government Area of Rivers State, when a fisherman identified as Ngofaka Iyo hacked his 92-year-old grandmother to death alleging that she was a witch.

Iyo, who is an Okirika fisherman, claimed that his late maternal grandmother, one Amachree, attempted to take his life through witchcraft.

Currently detained at Ogu/Bolo Police station, Iyo claimed to have complained to his mother, siblings and neighbours of funny experiences he was having at night.

In his statement to the police, he argued that he experienced spiritual strangulation every night and he attributed it to his grandmother because it was her face that he saw in the 'spiritual' world each time he had the experience. He added that she even did the same thing to his girlfriend, Fanny and his brother's wife. He stated that sometimes when he had the experience, he would scream 'Jesus' and at other times he would confront the grandmother with a broom, to scare her and she would plead with him to forgive her that she wouldn't repeat the act.

According to him, "before she died, she pressed me in the spirit so that I would die. It was when I shouted 'Jesus', she left me alone. When I woke up, I will confront her and tell her I don't like what she's doing to me. Sometimes out of annoyance I will carry a broom to flog her only for her to start begging and apologizing."

He said that this went on for a while and he continued to endure but on a Thursday in April, 2014 at midnight he had the same spiritual stifling to the point that he began to foam in the mouth. He claimed he saw his grandmother spiritually standing over him and commanding him to die. He explained that when

he struggled to wake up, he rushed to her room and pointed a torch at her. He added that she responded by raining curses on him asking him why he hadn't died yet and so he picked up a broom and began to beat her with it, stressing that she tried to wrest the broom from him and in the process, he pushed her away from himself only for her to hit her head against the wall and bruised her ankle on an iron burglary protector.

The woman was said to have bled to death from injuries sustained on her head, hand and leg.

Ngofaka's account of events was, however, discredited after the statement of the complainant, one Augusta Agienboye, 52 who is his aunt and a daughter to the deceased. Augusta stated that on the said day, after the act, Ngofaka's girlfriend ran to her with the news that Ngofaka had given repeated machete cuts to his grandmother. Augusta proceeded to report the matter to the Joint Task Force stationed in Bolo following which Ngofaka was apprehended and taken to the JTF checkpoint from where he escaped.

He was declared wanted and on May 14, 2014, he was re-arrested at a diesel dump site in Bolo town. The case was referred to the Ogu/Bolo Police station where Ngofaka made his statement.

When he realised that the law had caught up with him he began to reconstruct his earlier statement by adding that he also threatened her with a stick but didn't hit her. He added that he tried to revive the deceased after listening to the counsel of his girlfriend when he saw her in the pool of blood and took her to a treatment centre but didn't have the N5,000 demanded by the clinic.

Confirming the incident, Commissioner of Police, Tunde Ogunsakin said his men will conduct post-mortem test to verify the statement of Ngofaka and at the end of investigation, he would be charged to court.