

man to death by hanging for murder

From **Paul Osuyi**, Asaba

A Delta State High Court sitting in Asaba has sentenced a 30-year-old man, Fidelix Edozien, to death by hanging for the murder of Evelyn Chima. Edozien, a native of Anam in Anambra State had pleaded not guilty to the three-count charge.

But he was sentenced by the court presided over by the Chief Judge of the state, Justice Marshal Umukoro, for conspiracy to kidnap, kidnapping and murder. The offences are contrary to Sections 516, 364 and 319 (1) Criminal Code Cap. 48 Vol. 11 Laws of defunct Bendel State as applicable in Delta State.

The prosecution witness told the court that in September 2008, the accused person with three others at large conspired and kidnapped the victim, Mrs Chima (a.k.a Madam Do Good), at Ogbade in Illah, where she had gone to excavate stones.

First prosecution witness and daughter of the victim testified that she received a telephone call the following day that her mother had been kidnapped by unknown persons.

She said she later received another call with her mother's phone where the kidnappers demanded for \$1.5 million which was later reduced to N600,000, and finally negotiated to N100,000, but sent N15,000.

She further averred that the day she was scheduled to speak with her mother, the kidnappers presented a woman whose voice was strange to her and knowing that she had caught them in their trick they switched off the phone.

The kidnapper, who was one