

when I asked him he said he was just waiting for his sacraments to be completed, so now he can do whatever he wants. "He has chased me out of the house and has got himself another wife, therefore I beg this court to dissolve this marriage so that I can also remarry."

The respondent, Mr. Ernest Abeekaa, who resided at Karu, denied all the allegations.

Abeekaa said he thought his wife was a God-fearing woman, not knowing that she was a troublemaker.

## Court ends six-year-old marriage over battery

An Agege Customary Court in Lagos State on Wednesday dissolved a six-year-old marriage between Mrs. Grace Emmanuel and her estranged husband, Udofa Emmanuel, over incessant battery and quarrels.

The President of the court, Mr. Phillip Williams, in his judgement, however, admonished them to maintain peace.

Williams told the petitioner, Grace, to allow the respondent, Udofa, an unhindered access to his children.

The president also ordered Grace to always ensure she allows the children to always spend part of their holidays with their father.

He said that respondent should go to the Family Court to seek for the custody of the children if he were not satisfied with the judgement.

The petitioner had earlier prayed the court to dissolve her marriage to her estranged husband over frequent quarrels, lack of parental care for their children, joblessness and battery.

Grace told the court that there was no more love between them.

She said: "Since he lost his job, he had become aggressive, and showed no more love to me and the children."

"He has been uncaring and hostile toward me and our two children."

The petitioner cited frequent quarrels and battery as the common occurrences in their matrimonial home.

Grace said that she had been responsible for the upkeep of the house.

She added: "I made several efforts to resolve issues between us but yielded no positive results."

cy to traffic people into sexual exploi-

for example, some were orphans. One was a runaway from an attempted

lages, the use of juju rituals and sexual violence, including in one case rape."

## Youths demolish 70-year-old man's houses

### Septuagenarian, four wives, 25 children homeless



Ajah

Uchenna Inya  
ABAKALIKI

Police said yesterday they had arrested five people in connection with the attack on a 70-year-old man, Pa Martin Nweke Ajah, whose four houses were demolished by youths at Ndufu Umuota village in Ikwo Local Government Area of Ebonyi State.

According to sources, after levelling Ajah's home and turning mud blocks into heaps, the assailants took his property to the village square.

Sources added that the assailants auctioned the septuagenarian's property at the village square.

The youths were not happy over a protracted land dispute between the victim and some notable personalities in the village.

They also accused Ajah of killing 11 young men in the community through sorcery.

Now Ajah, his four wives and 25 children are taking refuge in the homes of their relatives in and outside the state.

The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), DSP George Okafor, explained that the five suspects were among the youths who allegedly carried out the attack.

He said they were apprehended through the help of the Chairman of Ikwo Local Government Area, Mr. Joseph Orogwu.

The PPRO said the suspects and their sponsors would be thoroughly investigated and arraigned to serve as a deterrent to others.

Okafor denied the claim by members of the community that police had been invading the area, causing pandemonium in the community and preventing the people from farming because of the matter.

He said: "Those saying we have been harassing members of the community are just saying this to draw unnecessary sympathy. We must bring the perpetrators to book."

## Madness: My daughter's husband shaved her pubic hair -Widow

Camillus Nnaji

A 54-year-old widow, Mrs. Christiana Yusuf, has called on Lagos State government and human rights organisations to come to the aid of her daughter, Remilekun Yusuf, who she said had mental illness.

Yusuf, who resides at 23, Omolayo Street, Ori-Okuta, Ikorodu, Lagos, said she had been forced to bear the burden of her 'mentally ill' daughter, and Remilekun's three children, Ayomide (7), Rokibat (4) and 19-month-old Tobli.

The petty trader said Remilekun had been living with a man (name withheld), though they were not legally married. The eight-year relationship, according to her, has produced the three children.

Trouble started when Remilekun became 'mentally ill', she and her children were kicked out of the house by her hus-

band's relatives.

Yusuf alleged said Remilekun told her that her husband shaved her head and pubic hair with a blade, after which she started displaying signs of mental illness.

"She would be at a place talking to herself. I took her to the native doctor who confirmed that her hair has been used for spiritual purpose."

"Recently, there was a problem between her husband and the landlord. The landlord fought with him because of the condition of my daughter and how he neglects the children's welfare. After that incident, her husband's relatives came and threw her and her children out of the house."

"I have been made to cope with an 'insane' woman and three more children; their feeding and education have been abandoned. I'm only a petty trader; that is

why I am crying out for help," the widow said.

The victim, who managed to speak a few words, confirmed that since her husband shaved her hair, she had been hearing strange voices and responding to the voices.

She said: "On one occasion, I had to fight him because he would abandon the family, hungry for over 10 days. I do not know where he goes."

The matter, Yusuf said, was reported at Igbogbo Police Station in Ikorodu.

But, according to her, the police said they needed evidence to back up the claim that the shaved hair caused Remilekun's mental illness.

A Good Samaritan, seeing the plight of the children and their mother, had alerted the child welfare agency at Alausa, Ikeja, for urgent assistance and to further investigate the matter.