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Bus Conductor Kills Friend, Gets 21-Year Jail Term

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A 23-year-old bus conductor, Joseph Robert, was yesterday sentenced to 21 years imprisonment by Justice Sedotan Ogunsanya of an Ikeja High Court, Lagos for stabbing his roommate, Kalu U.

Kalu, to death. Robert was charged for the offence of murder after stabbing Kalu ion the neck with a knife during a fight at their residence.

“The accused is hereby sentenced to 21 years imprisonment,” the judge rule. Ogunsanya passed the prison sentence on the convict as against a murder charge based on the

consideration that the convict had no intention of killing the deceased.

He said: “Thereby on this grounds the sentence is based on manslaughter not on murder as early charged.”

The prosecution, which was led by the Attorney General of Lagos State, Adeniji Kaseem, said the convict committed the offence on February 2, 2007 at No. 1 Shokunbi Street, Shasa in the Ikeja Division.

The convict was charged for the offence of murder contrary to Section 319(1) of the Criminal Code law. Cap C.17 Vol.2, Laws of Lagos State. According to the confessional statement, Robert and the deceased were both living peacefully in a one-room apartment, until convict decided to harbour his girlfriend, Blessing, who happened to be a sister to a co-tenant.

This decision gave rise to their misunderstanding because the said Blessing was sent packing by her elder brother and the accused decided to allow her into his room.

The idea did not go down well with the deceased who complained bitterly about the girl’s attitude and the manner in which Robert took the matter.

All efforts to deter Robert from accommodating the girl proved abortive. However, on that fateful day, about 11p.m, the deceased grew very furious over the long stay of the girl and threatened to throw her out of the house.

The confrontation by the deceased resulted to a fight which made the convict to use a knife against him. Robert threatened to stab Kalu if he dared come close to him, but the deceased called the threat a mere bluff and went up against him.

Robert, however, stabbed the deceased in the neck and he fell to the ground while blood gushed out profusely from his body.

The convict, noticing that his roommate was badly injured, rushed him to the hospital but he died on the way. The body was later taken back to the house but the landlord, identified as Saheed, and other tenants decided to report the matter to the police.