

# Tragedy as a pregnant woman is killed over N5

**PETER DURU**  
Makurdi

**E**MOTIONS betrayed many in the quiet town of Adoka, Otukpo LGA of Benue State when a middle-aged grinding machine operator, Obi Aboh Owecho, allegedly clubbed a woman with six months old pregnancy to death following a disagreement over N5. The late woman (name withheld) had on the day of the incident gone to grind her bag of corn at the centre which was done by the suspect without any incident.

However, according to sources, there was sudden exchange of hot words between the machine operator (Owecho) and the late pregnant woman over N5 balance resulting in the woman hitting the suspect on his face and the suspect retaliated.

As if that was not enough, it was learnt that the late woman dashed off laid her hands on a wood with which she intended to hit the suspect but who in self defense snatched same from her and in turn struck the pregnant woman with the stick.

She instantly started bleeding, went into coma and eventually died from the bruises she sustained before adequate medicare could be extended to her. The state police public relations officer, PPRO, who confirmed the incident, hinted that the command had commenced investigations into the incident, saying that the suspect would soon be charged to court for culpable homicide.

Commenting also, the commissioner of police, Benue State command, Mr. Ibiyinka Kayode, who lamented the rising wave of homicide cases in the state, called on parents to adequately monitor the activities of their children and the kind of company they keep.

He opined that the rate at which youths get involved in culpable homicide cases had called to question the roles parents play in the upbringing of their children.

"We parents must wake up to our responsibilities, we must not pursue the acquisition of material resources to the detriment of the children God has kept under our care because the rate at which teenagers get involved in murder and other criminal cases gives one cause for worry," CP Kayode said.

He also made special mention of the issue of cultism and cult related crimes in the state, warning that he had directed that any cultist caught should not be treated with kid gloves since information reaching him indicated that they (the cultists) go about with arms intimidating and harassing innocent citizens and students alike in the state.

"I advise that parents keep a close tab on their children because the incident of cultism in the state has become a source of worry to every discerning parent and in fact we now have ugly incidents of cult students harassing everyone including fellow students with fire arms; my warning is that henceforth if I get any of them I will treat them like common criminals because I will not allow any group of

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persons in whatever guise torment the innocent citizens of this state as far as I remain the CP here," the commissioner warned.

Brandishing an AK 47 and pump action rifles recently recovered from a gang in the state, Kayode hinted that it was a catch his men made from some gangs but noted that investigation was ongoing as to how such high profile weapons fell into the hands of those they got them from.

He explained that he had revamped and mobilized some teams in his command and drafted them to Otukpo and Gboko the two main towns in Benue State outside Makurdi to ensure that the state is rid of criminals explaining that it was one of the teams that rattled the suspected robbers that raided a bank in Oju LGA leaving two of the suspects dead.



•Police inspector general, Mike Okiro...contending with increasing rate of crime

## Students who dare to dream!

*By dint of hardwork and determination, five university students have won for themselves OPAF scholarships.*

**WALIYU YUSUF**

**W**HEN Emmanuel O. Onasami stepped out to receive a cheque to enable him continue a degree programme at the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile Ife, OAU, he looked every inch a serious-minded and focused person. As he stood while his citation was being read, he smiled coyishly each time the audience acknowledged him through applause.

Onasami is a 200-level student of Food Science and Technology. His cumulative grade point aggregate stands at 4.38, an indication that he was heading for a first class degree. But for the Odogbolu, Ogun State-born youngman, the journey through the four walls of OAU had been tortuous until the Olayinka Pamela Adedayo Foundation, OPAF, stepped in.

To survive, he took to organising tutorials for year one students of the institution for a fee. Every month, the income from the tutorials and family source averaged N7,500, an amount far too meagre to sustain him in school.

Just as he was thinking of how to continue his studies, he heard that the Pamela Olayinka Adedayo Foundation was about to award scholarships to indigent but brilliant students.

Onasami consequently applied and emerged as one of the students that benefitted from the second edition of the foundation's scholarship scheme for 2007. On May 27, 2008, he stood, alongside four other beneficiaries of the scholarship for 2007, to receive cheque from the foundation.

The other first time beneficiaries were Oludolapo Osunrinde and Zainab Eniola Ojoro. Benjamin Ajayi, a 500-level Food Science and Technology student of UNAAB and Kayode, also a 500-level

student of the same institution, had the privilege of winning the scholarship for a second time.

Ajayi and Oduse were among the 25 students that won the scholarships in 2006. Before the presentations, the founder of the foundation and managing director of Tastee Fried Chicken, Mr. Pamela O. Adedayo, said the beneficiaries had proved to be the best in their classes.

In a speech read on her behalf by a director of TFC, Dr. Fowoke Akinleye, Mrs. Adedayo charged the students not to rest on their oars.

She said, "You can be the best

you can be. In these days where youths in the universities and other higher institutions exhibit unwholesome attitudes such as cultism, indecent dressing, violence and sheer materialism, you must make a difference."

Recalling what brought the idea of the foundation, Mrs. Adedayo said, "I find it a natural role for me to attempt to advance the agenda of excellence in this specific way by providing opportunity through presentation of scholarship. I came to the decision to support and nurture young people who are starting life's journey." She added that she chose to give back to the society because of the manifold blessings of God in her life and that of the De-Tastee family.

In his remarks, the chairman of the Foundation, Barrister Soji Fayose, charged the beneficiaries to work harder in order to be role models in their generation. The presentation of the scholarships, which coincided with a party organised by TFC for orphans in Lagos State to mark the 2008 Children's Day, was attended by the chairman of TFC, Mr. Kunle Adedayo, and the Executive Director of the company, Mr. Bunmi Adedayo.

## Girl, 9, raped, killed!

*This is yet another sad story of defilement. This time it is very sad indeed because the young girl involved died after the incident. She did not die as a result of the defilement but was killed by the alleged rapist after raping her and she died instantly! Sad indeed.*

**WOLE MOSADOMI**  
Minna

**S**ATURDAY, June 1 was the sad day. Ladi Dauda, aged nine, had strolled into the bush in search of fruits. She was lucky to come across her favourite, cashew, and she settled to take some and also pick some cashew nuts home. She succeeded in picking some cashew nuts and an excited Ladi was heading for home after a mission accomplished when she heard a strange voice from the bush inviting her to come.

Aliyu Haruna is a farmer. Aged 35, he had migrated from Kenga Village in Bunza Local Government Area of Kebbi State to Tunga Makeri via Zugurma, Niger State.

He was said to be in his farm on the fateful day, watching Ladi as she picked the cashew fruits and, as she was about heading for home, he lured her to a vantage position in his farm where he allegedly raped her.

After allegedly defiling the girl, Haruna warned her not to divulge the information to anybody but Ladi reportedly insisted to narrate her bitter experience to her mother. Consequently, Haruna, allegedly,

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