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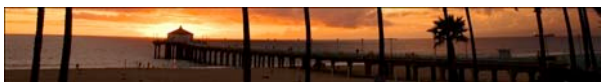
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Peter Duru

24 April 2010

A Gboko high court judge, Mr. Justice James Okume, has sentenced a middle age man to death by hanging for the heinous murder of his neighbour, Aoundona Gaji, over an alleged land dispute at Tse-Agbu village in Vandeikya LGA of Benue State.

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During the trial, the prosecution had told the court that the convict, in company of others still at large, murdered their victim after having tricked him into a forest where he was strapped to a tree, stabbed and burnt him to death.

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The convict and his gang, the prosecution said, thereafter proceeded to the home of their victim and set it ablaze, destroying his farm produce and his property in the process.

Prosecution also called three witnesses, including a medical doctor who testified against the convict, while the convict failed to call any witness in his defense.

On the case of a mischief by fire, the Judge sentenced the convict to three years imprisonment and imposed a fine of N5,000 on him warning that a default in the payment of the judgment sum would attract an extra one year imprisonment for the convict.

He also acquitted a second accused Mr. Masafan Ufan who was charged with the convict saying that the evidence before him did not implicate him in the matter.

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