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## Police detain four-month-old-baby, mother over electrocuted apprentice

By Esther Onyegbula

**P**olicemen attached to the Igbogbo Police Station, Ikorodu, Lagos State have been accused of detaining a four-month-old-baby and his mother over a man killed by electrocution.

It was gathered that the police detained the child and his mother, identified as Idiat Ajisebutu, 24, a hairdresser after she went to the station to report that a welder died from electrocution in her shop.

The family of the hairdresser claimed that the police held Idiat and her baby for days.

Idiat's husband, Segun Ajisebutu, narrated how his wife and baby were detained.

He told *Sunday Vanguard*, "I received a call from my wife, on Monday, April 4, that someone came to reconnect electricity supply in her hairdressing shop but the man was electrocuted in the process. She told me that one Emmanuel, a welder, who also has a shop in the area, ordered that electricity supply to her shop be disconnected because she was owing N2,000 bill. She told me that she later paid N1,000 and Emmanuel told his apprentice, one Chris, that he

should go to my wife's shop to reconnect. The apprentice, Chris, was reconnecting the electricity when he was electrocuted. My wife raised the alarm and people in the area ran to her shop and saw Chris dead. She was advised to report the electrocution to the police and she went to the Igbogbo Police Station, Ikorodu and reported the unfortunate incident. The police took her statement and went ahead to detain her with our four-month-old baby boy. The police kept my wife and our child in the cell for five days. On Saturday, April 9, they were transferred to the State Criminal Investigations Department, Pantti, Yaba, where she is still being held over Chris death".

Ajisebutu alleged that the police



at the SCID manhandled his wife and efforts to get her bail had proved abortive as the family of the deceased was demanding N2million as compensation for its dead kinsmen.

"While my wife was still being

held at the Igbogbo Police Station, the family of Chris came to the station and demanded N2million as compensation for the victim so that they could drop the case. My wife told them that she did not have that kind of money. That was how the police at Igbogbo transferred the case to the Homicide Unit, SCID, Pantti, Yaba. The police at Igbogbo Division handed her over to officers at the Homicide Unit, Pantti, to be detained in their cell, but when the officers on duty tried to take her baby from her, she wept that she should be released as she had nothing to do with the electrocution", the husband stated.

"Moreover, she was the person who reported the electrocution to the police. As she was pleading and holding on to her child, the policemen started beating her. They slapped her and forcefully collected her baby and handed him over to my sister in-law to take the baby home",

It was learnt that the police at Igbogbo Police Station, following Idiat's statement, arrested Emmanuel and one of his staff over the electrocution. The suspects have since been transferred to the Homicide Unit of the SCID for investigation.

Ajisebutu is maintaining that his wife is innocent and appealing to government and the police to release her. Mr. Ishola Agbodimu, President of Rural Urban Development Initiative, RUDI, said the case will be reported to the National Human Rights Commission for intervention.

Efforts to get the reaction of the Lagos State Police Command were not successful as the spokesperson for the command, SP Dolapo Badmos, did not pick her phone.

## Group backs Amnesty International over opposition to capital punishment

By Angela Okpe

**A** group, Integrated Coalition for Human Rights, has commended Amnesty International over its call for the abolishment of death penalty in the legal system all over the world and pledged its commitment towards making Nigeria one of the beneficiaries of the clarion call.

The group said, in a statement by its coordinator, Dr. Raphael Umoren, that the issue has been long overdue and calls for urgent attention from countries across the world. According to him, so many injustices have been carried out under the guise of capital punishment and a lot of innocent blood have been shed as a result of perversion of justice especially, in developing countries of the world. "This is the time to sanitize the

system and call the attention of world leaders to the vexatious and obnoxious issue of death penalty," he stated.

"In Nigeria, we have recorded innumerable cases where justice was glaringly perverted and human beings sacrificed in the alter of pecuniary considerations. If not for the discretion of our democratic governors, many more would have been murdered the same way. A case in point which needs urgent attention is the miscarriage of justice against the founder and General Overseer of Christian Praying Assembly, Rev. Chukwuemeka Ezeugo a.k.a Rev. King, who was recently sentenced to death in Nigeria.

"His case was simply put, a travesty of justice and not in tune with modern day trials. The trial,

## JODER, Ford Foundation bring ethnic groups, civil society to Lagos for peace

To tame pockets of violence and mutual distrust across the country, several ethnic groups and civil society will meet in Lagos on Tuesday to work out strategies for a people-driven solution.

The groups are meeting under the auspices of the Journalists for Democratic Rights, JODER, and the Ford Foundation West African Regional Office.

In a statement, JODER's spokesperson, Mr Obafemi Kasali, said the two-day summit is a strategic move to create a people-driven mechanism to tame violence and work towards eliminating conflict potentials across the county. He listed ethnic violence, and faith induced conflict as some of the most dangerous signposts against Nigeria's sustainable development. Some of the invited speakers include but not limited to Rear Admiral Ndubusi Kanu, Chief Ayo Opadokun, Prof Banji Akintoye, Mallam Yerima Shettima, Dr Tony Nwezeigwe and Mallam Abdullahi Shuaib, the Executive Secretary of the Conference of Islamic Organisations (CIO). Chairman of the event is Ambassador Olu Otunla, a former Nigeria Ambassador to Ethiopia, Ghana and Zimbabwe