

# 5 die in Niger as women, youths clash over pigs

By Wole Mosadomi

**MINNA**—THE killing of about 200 pigs by youths in Kafinkoro village, Paikoro Local Government Area of Niger State, reportedly led to a violent clash that resulted in the death of five villagers.

It was gathered that the youths killed the pigs, alleging that some of the animals exhumed and ate the body of a five-year-old boy.

Angered by the killing of the over 200 pigs, the village women, who are predominantly pig farmers, mobilised and embarked on protest, which eventually led to a clash between the parties.

*Vanguard* reliably gathered that as the women were on a peaceful protest, some youths in the village also mobilised themselves and attacked them with dangerous weapons, leading to the casualties.

## 'It's a frame-up'

A source revealed that it was not true that the dead body was exhumed and eaten by the pig, adding that it is barbaric to kill their pigs and also descend on their wives, who he said are innocent.

According to the source, "after killing our wives' pigs, they decided to attack our women and as human beings, we have the right to defend ourselves.

"Nobody can intimidate us in our village; we are very

accommodating, but anybody who does not like our ways of life has the choice to leave.

"Our women have been in this pig business for over 50 years and they have used the proceeds to train their children in school. The

community has never experienced this type of thing before, especially where pig exhumed dead bodies from the grave.

"It has never happened and so I see it as a frame up, because some people say eating pig is against their religion."

At press time, the state Police Command was holding a meeting with elders of the community on how to restore peace in the village.

Meanwhile, a combined security team of police and Army have been mobilised to the village to keep peace.

## Suit seeking to stop Obasanjo's son's wedding dismissed

By Abdulwahab  
Abdulah & Jane  
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**A** Lagos State high court, sitting in Ikeja, yesterday, struck out the suit filed by Mrs Taiwo Obasanjo, wife of ex-President, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, seeking to stop the wedding of her son, Olujonwo to Tope Adebutu.

The former President, Obasanjo, and father of the bride, Sir Kessington Adebutu, promoter of Premier Lotto known as *Baba Ijebu*, are the respondents in the suit.

Mrs Taiwo had, through the suit filed before Justice Lateefa Okunnu, sought an order to postpone the wedding of Olujonwo beyond May on the grounds of spiritual advice she was given concerning him.

Mrs Taiwo further urged the court to compel all stakeholders in the wedding to agree to postpone the wedding so as to allow her perform her parental duties towards her son.

Counsel to the respondents, Bode Olanipekun, urged the court to dismiss the suit on the grounds of lack of jurisdiction.

He noted that by virtue of Section 18 of the Marriage Act and Section 261 of the Child's Act, the court lacked jurisdiction to hear the matter with reason that the child in the suit is above 18 years.

Olanipekun, however, stated that claims in the applicant's suit do not disclose any reasonable cause of action.

He also told the court of a letter purportedly written to a church with the notion that the court has given an injunction, stopping the marriage.

Adeyemi Adegbite, counsel to Mrs Obasanjo, prayed the court to disregard the argument of the respondent and postpone the wedding.

## Judgment

In her ruling, Okunnu held that her court, being a family

court, does not have jurisdiction to entertain a matter involving an adult, who is over 33 years old.

In the ruling, Okunnu said: "On March 27, I directed counsel to address me on whether this court have jurisdiction to entertain a suit over a child that is an adult.

"This court adjudicates on matters involving children under 18 years and the subject matter in this suit is a 33-year-old adult.

"I regret to say that this court does not has jurisdiction to hear this matter. Moreover, this suit does not disclose any course of action. This suit is, hereby, dismissed in its entirety."

The judge also noted that the letter purportedly written to the church conducting the wedding was premised on a wrong notion as she never made any pronouncement concerning the meeting.

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