

2 Court sentences man to death for setting mother ablaze

By Wole Mosadomi

MINNA—Court One in Niger State, presided over by Chief Judge of the state, Justice Halima Abdulmalik, yesterday, sentenced one Stephen Jiya to death for setting his biological mother ablaze.

He is to die either by hanging, electrocution or injection until he is confirmed dead.

He was found guilty of culpable homicide punishable under section 221 of the penal code law which attracts death penalty.

Stephen Jiya was arraigned by the office of the Attorney-General of the state Ministry of Justice for setting ablaze his mother, Mrs Comfort Jiya, a retired Director in Niger State Ministry of Education, in November 2022.

The Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), Serah Gana, had prayed the court to convict him in accordance with the provision of Section 221 of the penal code, which attracts death penalty.

Justice Halima Abdulmalik in her submission said the circumstances that led to the death of the deceased clearly showed that the convict was undoubtedly responsible to the crime levelled against him as established by the

prosecutor.

She also said all the evidences and prosecuting witnesses, who testified before the court were able to prove that the convict was responsible for the death of his mother.

Justice Abdulmalik stated: "With all the evidences tendered before the court, I don't have any iota of doubt in my mind that the convict was guilty of culpable homicide punishable under section 221 of the penal code as charged.

"On the whole, the prosecutor has proved its case beyond every reasonable doubt against the defendant and I hereby found you,

Wife battering: Case against suspended Ekiti hospital CMD resumes

By Dickson Omobola

THE case of wife battering levelled against suspended Chief Medical Director, CMD, of Ekiti State Specialist Hospital, Ikere-Ekiti, Dr Olaolu Olubiyi, will resume today, at an Ado-Ekiti magistrate's court.

The suspect is being tried for allegedly assaulting his wife, Dr Adenike Olubiyi, a lecturer at Ekiti

Stephen Jiya, guilty of the offence of culpable homicide with death under section 221 of the penal code accordingly".

In an emotional laden voice, Justice Halima Abdulmalik asked the convict: "What do you have to say before I pass my sentence on you?"

The convict pleaded with the court to temper justice with mercy, saying: "I am a family man. I have a wife and children. Give me a second chance and I will be a product of good society.

"My Lord have mercy on me. Temper justice with Mercy and I

promise to change for good" he pleaded.

In her judgement which lasted for over one hour, Justice Abdulmalik said her hands were tied because the punishment for culpable homicide as stipulated by law was death.

"In the circumstances, the sentence of the court upon you is that you should be hanged by the neck, electrocuted, executed or injected with lethal injection until you are dead. May the Lord have mercy on your soul," the Chief Judge submitted.

State University.

The court had adjourned the case to today during the last hearing. But it was learnt that the court was still expecting an advice on the case from the state Ministry of Justice, on whether to proceed with the hearing today or have it transferred to the High Court and the charge upgraded.

The 44-year-old estranged wife of Olubiyi had alleged that she suffered constant beatings from her husband,

who had bragged that "nothing is going to happen as far as Ekiti State is concerned."

She told *Vanguard* that at the last court sitting, the prosecutor said the case file had been forwarded to the Ministry of Justice for advice.

Olubiyi added: "I hope the Ministry of Justice would have written the advice and be in court today for taking over of the case. I should not suffer in vain because my husband has been boasting that nothing is going to happen so far it is in Ekiti State."