

to Asaba.

Reading the judgment, the magistrate observed that the issue of blood sacrifice for business, which her husband could not explain to her, which raised doubts and suspicion in her mind and was further aggravated by the incidental death of their son, had caused the marriage to break down irrevocably.

He therefore granted the petitioner the divorce, and custody of the remaining 3 boys of the marriage. Mr Igwe was ordered to pay a monthly maintenance allowance of N6, 000 towards the upkeep of the children, through the court. (*Saturday Sun, July 1, 2006*)

47. A 42-year-old housewife, Mrs. Kudirat Folorunsho narrowly escaped being used for rituals by her husband in Shomolu Lagos, southwest Nigeria.

The *Daily Sun* had it that over 20 years ago, Alhaji Folorunsho allegedly took a pregnant Kudirat to the forest in the middle of the night and abandoned her. But hunters saw her and brought her back to town to the surprise of her husband. After she gave birth to their daughter in 1985, he reportedly took his wife to an herbalist in Ajah on the pretext of moving to a new apartment. When they got there the herbalist asked her if she knew why she was brought she answered no and he rebuked her husband for trying to use her for rituals ordering him to leave.

Afraid for her life, Kudirat fled leaving her daughter behind. Alhaji Folorunsho raised the baby Azeezat and started having incestuous relationship with her as soon as she turned 12, while lying to the young girl that her mother was dead. He married other wives who had other daughters by him and he allegedly raped them all.

The rape of her only child Azeezat compelled Kudirat to come out from hiding and reunite with her daughter.

Azeezat who was traumatized from the incest reported the matter to the police, who arrested her father. His arrest led to his other daughters corroborating the incestuous relationship their father had been having with them. (*Daily Sun, July 16, 2006*)

48. The police arrested a housewife, Mrs. Caroline Chukwuma, and her family over the death of her son in Abule Egba, Lagos, southwest, Nigeria.

Reporting the story, the *Daily Sun* maintained that, Caroline was married to her husband Paul Chukwuma for 22 years and had four children. Mr. Chukwuma had a track record of been a violent man with a violent temper. Over the years, Paul was fond of beating up his wife and children at the slightest provocation. According to Caroline, her husband had threatened to kill her several times with a knife, inflicting deep cuts on her. Eucharia one of their daughters, was not spared from the violence; one day their father used a chain to beat her up to the point of bleeding.

To avoid him, they all leave home in the morning to sneak back at night when he had gone to bed. This was the terrifying situation they were living in until their father beat up his son Emmanuel 22, for stealing Eucharia's gold necklace. He commanded the wife and children to tie Emmanuel's hands and legs with to a chair with a rope (which they did out of fear) and he went further to tie another rope around Emmanuel's neck.

While he continued beating him, the boy died. The neighbours alerted the police who arrested the family comprising Caroline, Eucharia and the murderer. (*Daily Sun, July 20, 2006*)

Domestic Violence/Murder

49. A housewife Mrs. Iyabo Adejobi filed for a divorce suit in a seeking the dissolution of her marriage, in a Grade 'C' customary court, Mapo Ibadan, Oyo State south west Nigeria.

According to the report in the *Sunday Sun*, Iyabo accused her husband Adewale Adejobi of maltreatment, violence and neglect. Claiming he beat her up always and never took care of their only child from the five years marriage. She implored the court to dissolve the marriage. In his defense Adewale told the court that he agreed to the divorce filed by his wife. He said he was afraid of contacting HIV/AIDS from his wife who he claimed was immoral.

The court therefore dissolved the union and granted the custody of the child to the wife. (*Sunday Sun, July 16, 2006*).

50. A 75-year-old widow was thrown into jail with her three-year-old grandson for allegedly farming on her late husband's farmland in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, south-south, Nigeria.

The report in the *Daily Sun*, had it that the woman, Madam Atims James Udo from Itam in Utu Local Government Area was arrested by the police following complaints from her-in-laws that she was farming on her late husband's land. Also arrested and tried along side with her was her son Ime James Udo the father of the three-year-old boy with her in prison.

According to Madam Udo, she had been farming on that land before her husband died and after he died, her-in-laws pounced on her saying she had no right to farm on the land since her husband was dead. They arrested her together with James and her grandson.

It was reported that she had been the toddler's surrogate mother since the death of his mother. They were jailed for three months

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without an option of fine. The octogenarian shared her food ration with her little boy as no special provision was made for his feeding by the prison authorities.

The Minister of Internal Affairs on a Prison tour in the state was shocked to see the 75-year-old widow in prison for a minor family land dispute and he went about her release, her son's and grandson. The Legal Aid Council Abuja intervened and got their release. (*Daily Sun, August 3, 2006*)

51. A housewife, name withheld was allegedly pounded to death with a pestle by her husband in Gossa village Abuja FCT, Nigeria.

According to the report in *This Day* Newspaper, the husband, Mutiu Akindele allegedly smashed the head of his wife with a pestle following a disagreement and she died in a pool of her own blood. After he finished the dastardly act and in an attempt to cover the crime he committed, Akindele got a basin of water and some clothes with which he mopped up the blood from the floor.

He raised alarm and went to the police who through a thorough investigation, found the basin of bloody water and bloody clothes, which he could not explain. Based on the information from neighbours, the bloody pestle was recovered by the police who arrested Mutiu and the case was charged to court for culpable homicide. Mutiu maintained that he was innocent of the crime that he loved his wife, who was also the mother of his only child. (*This Day August 26, 2006*)

52. A fashion designer, Adijat Adenekan was alleged sued for divorce by her husband in Ojo Grade 'A' Customary Court in Lagos State, southwest, Nigeria.