



JUSTICE NYAKO SPEAKS ON

SEXTORTION

Appointed a judge of the Federal High Court in the year 2000, Hon. Justice Binta Fatimat Nyako is not only a serving judge of the court, but also the president, national association of women Judges in Nigeria as well as a member of the international Association of women Judges. She was one of the two Africans elected to the body at its biannual conference in London in April this year. Hon. justice Binta Fatimat Nyako as the president of the National Association of women Judges of Nigeria (NAWJN) led forty-five(45) other female Judges of the Superior Courts of Record in the Nigeria Judiciary to the Conference on Sextortion in London.

Speaking on Saturday 30th June, 2012 at Port-Harcourt, Rivers State during the National Association of Women Judges in Nigeria (NAWJN) and the National Institute for Advanced Legal Studies (NIALS) Conference tagged “Violence against Women and Sextortion”, Justice Nyako cited some cases of Sextortion and the ordeal experienced by women at home and abroad. She stated that “Sextortion is a word used to describe a combination of ‘Sex and Extortion’ and noted that it is the concern of the international Association of women Judges who are working towards ensuring the eradication of the ugly trend.” Ethics of our Profession might not permit me to talk about specific cases we handled as Female Judges, but I could tell you of open instances. However, sextortion often has elements of corruption in it. And that is why it is treated as a criminal offence, painfully; it is not a new phenomenon. It is just that nobody wants to talk about it. We have however realized the serious need to break the silence just as the world was able to break the sealed lips on the HIV/AIDS Pandemic. One thing we must come to terms with is that it is currently rampant in our Societies. And so, now is about the time we break the silence and begin to talk about it openly”, she noted.

Sextortion, even as admitted by the international Communities during some of the conferences that have been hosted, is basically about an element of abuse of power by somebody entrusted with authority and somebody who is seeking either an advantage or justice from that person who holds the Clout. And sadly, it is in all spheres of life. The Judiciary, Executive, Legislature, Media, Police, army and indeed every sector of the Nigerian life. It is within the University Campuses, Villages, and Cities and everywhere you can think of. We have now decided to bring it out and stop keeping sealed lips on it, so that people can become aware and seek redress.

The essence of the one day Conference held in Port-Harcourt was to boost the confidence of many women to break the silence and say "I am a victim". She also added that it is not a female gender affair, but a humanity affair and a national problem that must be given a national importance for a positive change.

Hon. Justice Binta F.nyako having found herself in this enviable position has always been a very strong advocate in the circle of women Jurist standing and protecting the women. Though one is prone to presume she might be a bit stiff round the collar, due to the strict demand of composure that her profession demands, but it has not in any way over shadowed her great sense of humor. She loves reading, sightseeing and she is not left out in the world of sewing and designing.