

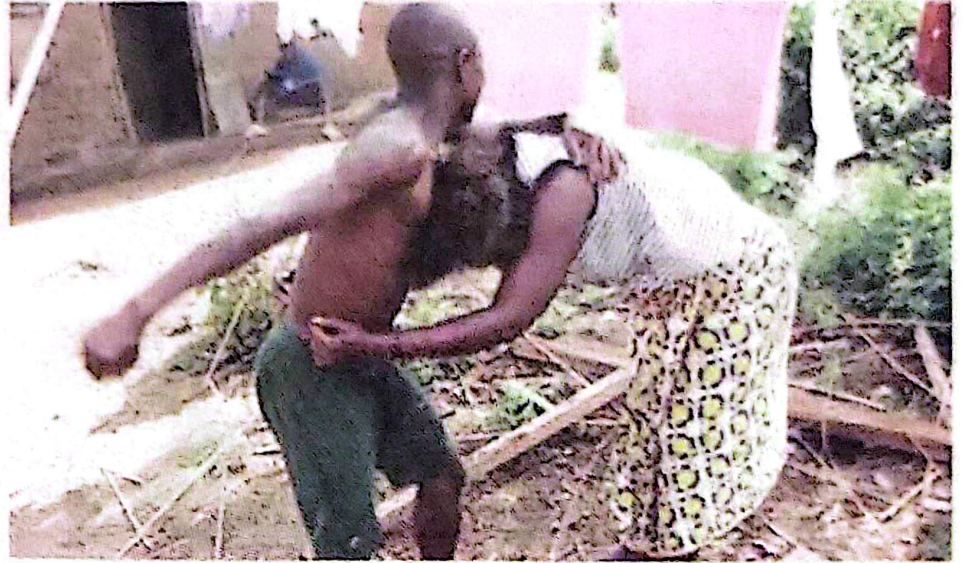
Say a big No to domestic violence

Each passing day, I get devastated by the alarming number of people being affected by domestic violence in our motherland. Despite the various campaigns against the violence, crimes of passion have continued to eat up our people one after another. The media has always reported stories of people hacking, burning, killing, etc, their loved ones over suspected infidelity-related cases, which is absurd.

A story of a one-year-old baby, who was found suckling the breast of her dead mother in Gulu last Friday, has been making rounds in the media. It is alleged that this woman was hacked by her husband with whom she had five children using a hand hoe. It is further alleged that trouble started after the husband suspected that his wife had an affair with another man.

It was also reported in the media that police in Agago District arrested a 44-year-old man who allegedly killed his wife Colline Amoyi after she attacked him at a drinking joint. She accused him of having an affair with another woman. There are many such stories in the media.

The big question is, is this where we have reached? What has happened to the law? How about the elders, councillors and religious leaders? How about talking and settling



issues amicably? If we are going to continue taking away the lives of our loved ones over petty and reconcilable reasons like receiving phone calls from people of the opposite sex, and accusing them of having an affair, then it is unfortunate.

My appeal is that married people should maintain a healthy, and respectful romantic relationship so as to act as role models for their children and the younger generation in order to create a domestic violence-free future. In case of a misunderstanding, talk about it, seek guidance from elders and or councillors. If it turns out irreconcilable, I would rather you separate and then work on a divorce other than hurting or killing someone. Think about the

repercussions of taking away a life such as leaving children as orphans, and the abomination that will continue to haunt you, among others.

I call upon all relevant authorities or organisations to sensitise citizens about the dangers of domestic violence. People should also be taught anger management skills since many people when overwhelmed by anger, resort to violence, something they regret much later.

As the community, we can indulge in neighbourhood watch by being vigilant against domestic violence. Let us come together and save a life, families and also build a violent free society.

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