

# **Women Against Rape, Sexual Harassment and Sexual Exploitation (WARSHE)**

## **Press Release**

### **Prosecute Mr Oluwadare Adeshina, the Deji of Akure who Dis-robbed Himself**

WARSHE, a women's rights organization, is appalled by the story headlined: *Deji of Akure, estranged wife in street fight*, which appeared on P. 7 of The Punch newspaper of Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2010.

The facts of the case as reported by the Punch newspaper are that:

- the Deji of Akure, Oba Oluwadare Adeshina led a group of people to the home of his estranged wife;
- the estranged wife of the Deji, Bolanle hid from him when she sighted him in her residence;
- Bolanle came out of hiding when the Monarch ordered the thugs he brought with him to invade her residence;
- when she emerged, the thugs poured hot ashes on her and bit her up;
- the Deji himself removed his apparel to partake fully in the fray;
- persons who were angered by the attack on Bolanle and the spectacle of a Deji pulling off his apparel to fight, attacked the Deji and his entourage; and
- the police saved the Deji when they whisked him away.

The photograph of a woman whose arms were burnt can be seen on P. 7 of the Punch newspaper. We assume the woman is Bolanle. If the story carried by the Punch newspaper is true, we have no doubt that the Deji of Akure has desecrated the throne of the Deji, a traditional Yoruba institution, and, this is an abomination. We will leave the Akure king makers and the people of Akure with the business of dealing appropriately with the chief custodian of tradition who desecrates tradition.

However, two things are clear:

- once the Deji left his exalted palace to go and slug it out with his estranged wife, he no longer saw himself as a Yoruba Oba, the Deji of Akure, and
- when he pulled off his apparel to fight outside his palace, in the full view of his subjects, he dis-robbed himself as Deji of Akure.

Because **the Deji of Akure, Oba Oluwadare Adeshina has dis-robbed himself as Deji**, WARSHE is asking that the government of Ondo State should formalize his dis-robement.

We ask that the Commissioner of Police, Ondo State Police Command, whose men saved Mr Oluwadare Adeshina, and the Director of public prosecutions for Ondo State, should arraign him in court for: causing public disorder; assault occasioning harm; bodily injury; and attempted murder.

The Nigerian State has to act decisively in this matter, not just to uphold the rule of law, but to show clearly that it will not condone all forms of violence against women.

Mr Oluwadare Adeshina is a peculiar kind of model that young men in Nigeria should not seek to emulate, and the Nigerian State should treat him as such.

Signed  
Dr Olutoyin Mejiuni  
Coordinator, WARSHE, 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2010

And

Dr Oluyemisi Obilade, 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2010  
Treasurer, WARSHE