

How a patriarchal justice system is oppressing a woman, and everybody is silent about it.

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Her name echoes through the legal profession. Pamela Davies is renowned for being uncompromising and a woman of lavish integrity. In Sierra Leone, most often than not, when a public officer is said to be ‘a difficult person’, it just means that that person does not bend the rules or is opposed to a parallel system either for greed or political interests. In March 2019, the last sacked Attorney-General (Dr. Priscilla Schwartz) by a sheer abuse of authority, instructed Ms. Davies to proceed on leave, after she lawfully defied unlawful instructions. Despite the several protestations by many lawyers and even the Bar Association, in the stubbornness of her error, the outgone AG refused to pay heed to the many good counsel and shamelessly clutched to her unjust decision.

Two investigations followed in simultaneity and Ms. Davies, the very one who stood for the integrity and ideals of the law school institution, the very one who would stay up for several hours sometimes with the aid of her Chinese light to meticulously ensure the accuracy of the law school results, was now being falsely accused of breaching the integrity of the examinations which she’d always done to great risk to health and person. The CID in their usual over-haste to kowtow to political sentiments sprang into action with jumbo-jet-esque speed. They appeared to have almost a preconceived mindset that they were just going to piece together evidence to prosecute a delinquent woman. They searched for many weeks for what never existed and at the end of the day, much to their chagrin, they produced an exonerating report (very atypical of the police!). In similar vein, the findings of the committee set up by the Chief Justice, headed by the Hon. Justice Miatta Samba JA, did not reveal any faults on the part of the Ms. Davies.

This is the true story of Pamela Davies; but this is also the story of some people who have to endure false accusations, intimidations, harassment and outrageous bullying in the civil/public service or government institutions. For almost a year, Ms. Davies continues to stay at home; her accusers have run out of devices to crucify her. They sure are bereft of any whiff of evidence to prosecute or condemn her but they have not run out of any resolve to oppress her in silence. Almost a year on, patriarchy continues to bully one of the most upstanding and highly principled in the legal profession. The legal fraternity is

silent about it; dare touch a man of integrity and high morals in the law profession, his comrades would be up in arms to protect him from any consequences from superiors. That is not the same for women, who challenge the patriarchal structures within the legal system. They are left for dead in silence, while their male counterparts continue to brag that there are no ladies at the Bar.