

My post of August 19 at <https://www.facebook.com/emmanuel.liyongsama> and comments from a cross section of members of the Bali-chamba community, especially youths.



Widows undergoing the wideness rite in Balikumbat

[Emmanuel Liyong Sama](#)

THE WIDOW'S CROSS; A WIDOW'S CRY

Sentenced to this yoke of tradition
Because a soldier died
Shattered into bits by a land mine
Just three months after our honey moon;

Sentenced to this spell of hell for the cleansing
Of a widow for the supposed mastermind
Of the demise of her man; I shed these tears
For my man and the fate of our unborn child:
This orphan in my womb!

Sitting here for days and weeks on bare ground
Carpeted only with fresh plantain leaves
Which serve as my bed at bedtime;

Sitting here taciturn, legs stretched out,
Naked, except for a white cloth around my waist
My palms open to the heavens, to tell
Of my innocence in a husband's death!

Why must I talk only through a guardian widow
And take a bath or wash my hands only once a week?

Why must I feed only from the small calabash bowl
Which serves as my headgear, when outdoors?

Yes, why must I walk and dance the ritual dances,
My left hand on the right shoulder
So unable to cover my naked breasts,
Which so tempts the lust and sighs of many a man.

Jesus carried his cross to cleanse mankind
Of the sins of Adam and Eve;
I bear this yoke of my Chamba tradition
For cleansing from the supposed sins of a widow.

Why must I cry, these tears from my heart
Day long, and for long nights
For myself and the father of my unborn child
Killed at dawn at the war front
Of Boko Haram?

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- [Mître Handsom Diamond Heart](#), [Will Kehms](#), [Keghah Roger](#) and [4 others](#) like this.

- [Keghah Roger](#) Good one Nih. We must work towards ameliorating this thing call tradition. This is inhuman.

- [Marthanoel Sama](#) This widowhood ritual is inhuman. We need a change.

- [Asanji Magdaline Sirri](#) · [4 mutual friends](#)
i taught such things do not exist any longer still in some villages. too bad as i can say

- [Ladji Ethel](#) · [2 mutual friends](#)
Every tradition have been modernize to suit the today, why not that. Is time to start thinking towards that direction.

- [Peter Gana](#) · [8 mutual friends](#)
it has to stop without procedure d

- [Peter Gana](#) · [8 mutual friends](#)
bc those benefittx frm it will evoke nonsense to defend themselves

- [Colette Lesigha](#) · [6 mutual friends](#)
This tradition has to be looked deeply into. This is really terrible in the dawn of this 21st century. This is the part that pains me most in Bali culture.

- [Colette Lesigha](#) · [6 mutual friends](#)

Gosh, this is sickening.

- [Evelyn Kemende](#) Thanks Ni, let our men join you to set the women free from this ordeal.

- [Ebenezer Tafili Gebding](#) · [6 mutual friends](#)

A master piece. Thanks my dear brother. The best way to lay this unfortunate tradition to rest is to take individual decisions at family level and stand by those decisions. I've taken mine already. The bone of my bones will not go through this. It's a matter of personal "dispensation." Take the decision now man and inform your family members in strong terms. It should be part of your will. Anyone who changes mine when I close my eyes to open them no more, will see me the same day.

- [Colette Lesigha replied](#) · [1 Reply](#)
- Uncle E, I salute your worth.

- [Ebenezer Tafili Gebding](#) · [6 mutual friends](#)

Thanks my dear and more power to your elbows as you stand out against why is not right.

- [Pascal Ndiforba](#) · [14 mutual friends](#)

if we really believe that God Almighty is the only one who forgives sin then let the chamber men of God stand against this ..but ironically, they are the first to promote this. Let our national and international organizations like,BCA ,MIDA and the local village development organizations together with all the Fons of chamber origin put hands in dirge to STOP AND IF NOT POSSIBLE AMELIORATE THIS SATANIC AND WICKED WAY OF MOURNING THE DEATH. .. AFTER ALL WHETHER WE MOURN OR NOT THE SHALL NEVER RETURN NOR THE MOURNERS WILL LIVE FOR LIFE. ...Thank you Ni for this is the beginning of a good fight let's see if all our villages will disappear from the face of the earth for not following the so called traditional rituals. ..the ball will continue rolling till

- [Ndango Anse](#) · Friends with [Evelyn Kemende](#) and [10 others](#)

You are right such need to change with time

- [Ndango Anse](#) · Friends with [Evelyn Kemende](#) and [10 others](#)

As we put our heads together as Christians must win the battle by God's grace

- [Nkwetatang Sampson Nguemie](#) Some of these consummately bleak and interior African customs and traditions are some kind of domestic slavery. We have over-lived that epoch.


