

Murder: 3 policemen remanded in Ilorin prison

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THREE policemen were yesterday remanded in Ilorin Prison till January 20 for alleged shooting to death of a eight-month-old baby, her mother, and a pastor last Sunday.

Magistrate Sefiat Abdulkadri ruled that the cops did not deserve bail given the nature of the offence as contained in the First Information Report (FIR).

The murder suspects are Sunday Balogun, Adams Akeem and Olatunji Tajudeen of 'A' Division of the State Police Command Ilorin.

Their charge read: "One

Akinola Akintunde (m) of No. 19 New Yidi road, Ilorin reported at 'A' Division Ilorin that on 3/1/2010 at about 1820hrs along Asa Dam Road, Ilorin, you Sunday Balogun and two others namely Adams Akeem, Olatunji Tajudeen attached to 'A' Division while on routine patrol stopped a taxi cab with reg. No. XB384PTG and when the said taxi failed to stop, you Olatunji Tajudeen shot at the said taxi cab with your AK47 rifle No.0970 and the bullet hit one Titilayo Olatunde (f) and her daughter, Anu Faruk and one other man, Adejo Gbadebo (m) who were occupants of the cab. On receiving the complaint, the officer in charge of Patrol

and Guard in your Division, one Dayo Ogunleye 'ASP' mobilised some policemen and left to the scene of crime. Immediately, he got to the scene, they rushed the three victims to the General Hospital, Ilorin for medical attention. While receiving treatment, Titilayo Olatunji (f) died on the same date while her eight month-old daughter died on 04/01/2010. One Gbadebo Adejo who, is also a victim of the gun shot died on 5/1/2010."

The prosecutor of the case, Sergeant Moshood Adebayo, asked for adjournment to duplicate the file for Director of Public Prosecution (DPP) advice. Objecting to the bail of the accused persons, he

urged the court to remand the suspects at the Federal Prison, Ilorin because their offences are capital in nature. He said if the accused were admitted to bail, there is likelihood of their jumping bail and above all, investigations into the matter are yet to be completed.

Lawyers to the accused persons, Mrs. Ronke Adeyemi and T.I. Giwa holding the brief of Lawrence Opoola and Chief S.I. Ashaolu, said the offences were mere allegations adding under the Constitution, the accused are deemed innocent until proved otherwise. They also urged the court to discountenance the argument of the prosecutor that they are likely to jump bail as the basis for that was not established.