

a crime in my one-room apartment at Tomaro in 2004, but started practising fully as a

of Nigeria, which said that the man is not their member," Owoseni added.

The alleged rape doctor, Temilola Osofisan, being interviewed by journalists after his arrest by the police for operating an illegal hospital at Tomaro, a riverine community in Lagos, where a pregnant woman died

Photo: Eugene Agha

## Murder: Families of accused persons allege conspiracy

From Doyin Adebunsi, Ado Ekiti

Families of the seven persons accused of complicity in the killing of former Ekiti State National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW), Omolafe Aderiye, have alleged a conspiracy between the state government and the authorities of the Ado Ekiti Court of Appeal to stall hearing and keep their bread winners permanently in prison custody.

Aderiye was killed at a motor park at the Ijigbo area of Ado Ekiti on September 25, 2014 by four gunmen who rode to the place in an unmarked vehicle. The late Aderiye was a chieftain of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) and was known to be a staunch supporter of Governor Ayodele Fayose.

Those facing trial for the murder are Adebayo Aderiye, Adeniyi Adedipe, Oso Farotimi, Ajayi Kayode, Sola Durodola, Rotimi Olanbiwonna and Sola Adenijo.

The families of the accused men made the allegation yesterday shortly after the sitting of the state High Court 6 trying the case. But the case could not go on as the presiding judge, Justice Adekanye Ogunmoye, adjourned the case to December 19 for mention pending the conclusion of hearing at the Appellate Court.

During the protest, Adedipe's daughter, Oluwatoyin, called on the Governor Fayose administration to release her father and the other accused persons unconditionally, saying the family has been suffering for

more than two years her father has been incarcerated.

Oluwatoyin said: "I gained admission into the university but I could not pay because of my father's detention in prison custody and we the children are crying every day.

"We know for sure that he did not commit the offence for which he is being tried and we are calling on them to release him unconditionally. When my father had the opportunity to run away during the last jailbreak, he did not do so because he knew he didn't commit the offence."

Olanbiwonna's son, Olaide, urged the National Judicial Council (NJC) and the Court of Appeal headquarters in Abuja to intervene. He accused the Ekiti State government of

colluding with the Ado Ekiti Division to stall the case.

Olaide said: "This is a delay tactic employed by the state government. The accused should be the one delaying the matter, but it is now the other way round." He urged the federal government and the NJC to intervene by investigating those at the Ado Ekiti Court of Appeal.

Mrs. Seun Adenijo, who spoke on behalf of the wives of the accused persons, also alleged that the delay was deliberate as the motion was filed at the Appeal Court over five months ago without being heard.

Mrs. Adenijo said: "We believe the case is being intentionally delayed because over five months ago when

the state government filed a motion there, they are yet to give a date to hear it."

Before the court rose, prosecution counsel, M.T. Alaaya, told the court that there was a pending motion on the matter at the Court of Appeal and prayed for an adjournment of the case. Defence counsel, Elijah Nworie, also said the Appeal Court was yet to adopt the brief of argument of the parties pending before it, hence the need for adjournment.

Justice Ogunmoye said his court could not go on with the matter when the Court of Appeal had not disposed of the motion filed there by the prosecution and, therefore, adjourned the case to December 19 for mention.