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3 murder suspects get bail over land dispute

From Doyin Adebunsi, Ado Ekiti

The three suspects accused of murder during the riot that trailed the land dispute between the Ayede and Itaji communities in Oye Local Government, Ekiti State, on January 31, 2017 have been granted bail by an Ado-Ekiti High Court.

The suspects - Joshua Akanbi, Abiodun Ogundaisi

and Segun Ogundaisi - are being accused of complicity in the murder of one Seyi Oladipo during the battle between the two communities for the ownership of the Orisunmibare farm settlement.

Their counsel, Mr. Sule, filed and moved the application for their bail at the resumed hearing of the case on yesterday before Justice Toyin

Abodunde, who admitted them to bail in the sum of N500,000 and one surety each.

Each of the surety, the judge ruled, must be a community leader, who must deposit his Certificate of Occupancy (C of O).

Justice Abodunde held that the suspects must sign an undertaking not to cause any trouble or be involved in

any breach of public peace to maintain throughout the period of the trial. She stressed that the court would not hesitate to revoke the bail if they caused trouble again.

Before the ruling was delivered, prosecution counsel, Mr. Adebayo Arogundade, had applied to amend the charge filed against the men, which was granted by the court.

The accused persons are standing trial on two-count charge of conspiracy and murder.

Arogundade told the court his readiness to call 10 witnesses to give evidence in the case and prayed for a short date to assemble the witnesses.

The court adjourned the case to November 6 and 7, 2017 for definite hearing.