

Soldier testifies on son's murder

By Joseph Onyekwere

AT the resumed trial of Chigozie Abani yesterday at the Lagos High Court, Igbosere, a retired military officer, Mr. John Obi, narrated before Justice Aishat Ope-sanwo how his son was allegedly murdered.

AT 7p.m on August 14, 2010, at Ijanikin, Lagos, Abani, 34, with others now at large, allegedly killed one Okechukwu Obi, an offence contrary to Section 319 of the Criminal Laws of Lagos State, according to the charge sheet.

Testifying in the case yesterday, the victim's father, who was led in evidence by the State Counsel, Mr. Afolabi Sholebo, said he was in his house when his daughter rushed to tell him that his son had been killed.

"I rushed to the scene, which is a beer parlour where my son was hanging out with his friends, and

found his lifeless body," he said. "I also saw machet wounds on my son, which suggested that he was cut to death when their gun had no effect on him.

"I immediately called the police and arranged for his body to be taken to the mortuary, after which I gave an account of what happened at the police station."

According to Obi, the victim's friends said the defendant and others numbering about 20 stormed the beer parlour and killed his son. He added that Abani was arrested during a manhunt for the suspects while he was running into the bush to evade arrest.

The prosecution counsel however, prayed the court to adjourn to enable him present the witness' original statement in court. The matter was subsequently adjourned till February 17 for continuation of trial.