

## Three sentenced to death for kidnap, murder

about 16 hours ago

Recommend { 1

Tweet { 0

A DELTA State High Court sitting in Warri has sentenced three young men to death by hanging for the kidnap and murder of 80-year old Madam Ighoru Eruvbedede, even after collecting a ransom of N.8 million from the family.

The kidnappers, Shadrach Samson Dobibe, Francis Mudiaga and Ejiro Diamond, who were convicted on Wednesday, claimed to be wood millers and betrayed no emotion when the death sentence was read out by the trial judge (name withheld).

They were arraigned on a four-count charge of conspiracy to commit felony to kidnap, the substantial offence of kidnapping, demanding property with menace and murder.

Prosecution from the state's Ministry of Justice had told the court that the three accused, now condemned to death by hanging, including a fourth person, Akpodiete Oghenekaro, who was discharged and acquitted for lack of sufficient evidence linking him to the offence, conspired and kidnapped the octogenarian.

The victim, mother to a former chairman of Delta State Art Council, was abducted on or about July 6, 2009, at Uduophiri Village in Patani.

Prosecution further told the court that the accused later phoned their victim's son, Jerry Eruvbedede, demanding a N20 million ransom for her release.

The three accused, upon their arrest by the State Security Service (SSS), confessed to having committed the offence. They also admitted to have collected the N800,000 ransom, which they claimed was meant for the upkeep of their victim.

They further confessed that the victim died out of starvation, as she was bound hands, legs and mouth to prevent her escape, as she had made an attempt earlier. According to them, the victim's corpse was thrown into the Otuomor River.

In his ruling, the judge described the assault on the defenceless elderly woman as heinous, and sentenced the three to death by hanging on count four, which is murder.