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Man, 60, five others arraigned over killing of three NNPC staff

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A 60-YEAR-OLD community leader, Oluwole Posibi Reuben, was on Thursday arraigned at a Federal High Court in Lagos along with five others charged with the killing of three staff of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) at Arepo, a suburb of Ogun State.

Other accused persons are Inerepamu Ijebu Joel (25), John Aye Isaiah (28), Ineye Okposa (40), Timi Gunugunu (22) and Saheed Olisa Mudashiru (25).

They were alleged to have killed the NNPC officials with pump action gun while attempting to escape with refined oil which they illegally scooped from NNPC pipeline in the area.

The murdered NNPC officials are Agbaku OAU, Ernest

Ngene and Ikechukwu Ikenem.

The accused persons, arraigned before Justice Mohammed Idris on a seven-count charge, were later ordered to be remanded in prison pending their trial, which will begin on December 18.

In count one, the accused persons allegedly committed felony by tampering with oil pipeline contrary to Section 3 (6) of the Miscellaneous Offences Act, Cap. M17, Law of the Federation, 2004.

The police stated in count two that the accused willfully and maliciously broke NNPC pipeline for the illegal transportation of refined oil contrary to Section 7 (a) of the Miscellaneous Offences Act, Cap. M17, Law of the Federation, 2004.

In counts three and four, the accused were alleged to have tampered with the free flow of refined petroleum product through oil pipeline and also

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dealt in petroleum product without appropriate licence.

In counts five, six and seven, the accused persons were said to have killed the NNPC officials contrary to Section 319 of the Criminal Code, Cap C38, Laws of the Federation, 2004.

The crime was allegedly committed on September 5, 2012.

After their arraignment, the accused pleaded not guilty, while the prosecutor, Friday Ibadin, an Assistant Commissioner of Police, applied for a long adjournment following the absence of the lawyers to the accused persons.

The judge then adjourned the matter to December 18, and ordered the accused to be kept in prison till then.