



Metro

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Two suspected touts in court over alleged assault, unlawful damage

TWO suspected touts, Afeez Salami, 21, and Obinna Duru, 26, on Thursday appeared before a Surulere Chief Magistrates' Court in Lagos over alleged assault of a policeman and unlawful damage of three vehicles.

Salami and Duru, residing at Sari-Iganmu, a suburb of Lagos, are facing a four-count charge of conspiracy, assault, breach of peace and unlawful damage.

The Prosecutor, Corporal Gbenga Salami, told the court that the offences were committed on September 29, 2013 at about 9.18 p.m. at Graziella Hotel, Iganmu.

Salami said that the accused and others still at large assaulted some citizens at the hotel by hitting them with broken bottles, cutlasses, stones and other dangerous weapons.

"The accused also unlawfully damaged the windscreen and open-roof windscreen of a Nissan Pathfinder jeep 2002 model with plate number: EC 151 LSD, valued at N35,000 property of one John Ohanyere.

"The accused also damaged the rear windscreen of an Audi 90 saloon car with number plate: AP 265 AWK valued at N20,000 and the side glass of a Nissan Serena bus with number plate: BX 267 AGL worth N9,000; belonging to the hotel.

"The accused smashed a bottle on the head of one Sergeant Ajagbe Babatunde attached to the Orile-Iganmu Police Station who was performing his lawful duty alongside his other members of the anti-robbery team," Salami said.

The prosecutor said the offences contravened Sections 56, 171, 348 and 409 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2011.

Section 171 prescribes that any person who unlawfully assaults another, is guilty of felony and is

Family accuses police of killing 300-Level student in detention

By Emmanuel Udom
Snr Correspondent, Lagos

THE Police in Nasarawa State have been accused of killing a 300-Level student of Economics at Kaduna State University while he was in detention.

The deceased, Femi Bello had just finished his second semester exams, with the hope of proceeding to his final year, when he was killed.

Bello was allegedly arrested when he went to visit a friend and taken to the police station.

By the time his mother and younger brother got information of his arrest and went to the police station, the Divisional Police Officer (DPO), in charge of the station told them, "Him don die."

Barrister Nanpon Wuyep of Sterling Law Centre, who is battling

to get justice for the deceased, said that the DPO informed him and the deceased family that Bello allegedly confessed to owning a gun he kept somewhere in Bwari and that while they were taking him in the police van in handcuffs, somewhere around 'sharp corner' in Mararaba, he jumped out of the moving van.

The police said they rushed Bello to the Medical Centre in Mararaba but could not be saved because the medical workers were on strike.

The police alleged that they took him to a private hospital, where he was confirmed dead.

According to Wuyep, Bello had gone to UTC shopping complex to deliver Tee-Shirts and decided to visit a friend at Mararaba.

He said Bello was sitting

outside the friend's house around 4 pm when a Golf Volkswagen car suddenly parked in front of him.

"About eight men stepped out of the car and arrested Bello, his host and other friends numbering about seven. They were handcuffed and taken to the Mararaba Police Station", he said.

Wuyep said that after waiting for Bello the whole day, his mother and siblings started making several efforts to reach him as his phone was switched off.

On December 7, he said the mother got wind of his arrest and detention.

"His younger brother, Biodun, went to the police station. The police officers confirmed his arrest, but advised him to come back the next morning before 10 am. They told him that the case was being transferred

to the State CID at Lafia, Nasarawa State.

Wuyep said he was contacted and he went with Biodun to the station the following day.

He said he wanted to find out Bello's offence and secure his bail.

Wuyep said: "I asked to see Bello. I was told that he was not in the cell. I was referred to the Divisional Crime Office (DCO), where I met one Adamu. The man directed me to see the Divisional Police Officer (DPO), Superintendent of Police (SP) John Omege. The DPO told me in vernacular, 'him don die.' Biodun, unable to bear the news broke down in tears."

Wuyep said that on December 9, he and some family members went back to the station seeking to see the body of the deceased for identification.

"The DPO told us that it was beyond his powers, as the case was transferred to the State CID in Lafia. He advised us to direct our request to Lafia, which we immediately did. The DPO also showed us a picture of the corpse which family members confirmed bore a resemblance of Bello but still expressed some doubts.

"The family on the same day wrote to the Commissioner of Police, Nasarawa State, requesting a full report of the circumstances leading to the arrest and eventual death of Bello.

"On arrival at Lafia, which is over three hours' drive from Mararaba, we sought to see the Officer in Charge of the State CID, Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Tarfa, whom the DPO had specifically directed us to, but his aides would not let us see him, but rather directed us to the Officer in Charge of Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) Nasarawa, one Cl-etuis," stated Wuyep.

Man dragged to court for defrauding his fiancé

By Gbenga Faturoti
Correspondent, Osogbo

A MIDDLE aged man, Oluwole Bolaji was on Thursday arraigned before an Osogbo Magistrate Court for defrauding his fiancé of a sum of N180,000.

The suspect was said to have committed the offence under the pretence of assisting his fiancé, Doyinsola Adebayo to secure her VISA and other travelling documents to Malaysia.

The offence was committed in April, 2014 in Osogbo.

According to the charge sheet, "the accused did obtained the sum of N180,000 from one Adebayo Doyinsola with pretence to secure her VISA to Malaysia and knowing fully to be false.

The accused also did converted the money which was fraudulently obtained from the complainant with pretence to secure her VISA to his own personal property.

The police prosecutor, Inspector Solomon Oladele said all the allegations levelled against the accused are contrary to and punishable under section 419 of the criminal code cap 34 vol.11 laws of osun state of Nigeria 2003, and section 390 (9) of the criminal code cap 34 vol. 11 laws of Osun State of Nigeria 2003.

Counsel for the accused, Okobe Najite, urged the court to grant the accused person bail in the most liberal terms.

The Presiding Magistrate, F.A Sodamade granted the accused bail with the sum of N100,000, with two sureties.

The case was later adjourned till January 28, 2015 for hearing.



•Bello

Judge berates counsel for absenting self from court