

EMEKA OKAFOR
UMUAHIA

Court Orders Trial Of Four Policemen, Pastor Over Student's Death

An Umuahia high court has ordered the trial of four policemen and the pastor of a Pentecostal church involved in the killing of 22-year-old Vincent Uwagbaokwu, a student of Imo State Polytechnic, Umuagwo.

Uwagbaokwu was shot dead by police on the night of September 10, 2015 by a police patrol team invited by one Pastor Martins of the Christ Empire International Church, Umuahia.

The four-man patrol team had invaded the home of the Uwagbaokwus at Ohobe Afara, Umuahia North Local Government Area of Abia State on the fateful night

on suspicion that the deceased had stolen musical instruments belonging to the church.

But in his judgment in suit No. HU/43M/2017 filed by Emmanuel Uwagbaokwu, father of the deceased, in conjunction with Jude Nwaokoro, a human rights lawyer, Justice Kenneth Okereke held that the respondents were guilty of conspiracy for the murder of the deceased in cold blood.

In the suit, the applicants had asked for five reliefs including N10 billion 'exemplary damage' (compensation), an enforce-

ment of the deceased's fundamental right to life, and a declaration that the respondents unlawfully and unconstitutionally killed the deceased.

The applicants also asked the court to order the police to tender public apology to the family of the deceased and award any other relief the court may deem fit.

Justice Okereke ordered Pastor Martin and the four police officers, namely Ikechukwu Ogbonna (church deacon), Ex-Sgt. Ogbonna Alieze, Sgt. Eyong Inah, Cpl Obi Chimbuike and Okafor

Ugochukwu.

He said the respondents failed to justify the killing of the boy, who was not even the suspect in the alleged stealing of the church property and was not armed at the time the police invaded their home.

"Vincent Ikechukwu Uwagbaokwu died an innocent man," he said, adding that till date "none of those involved in the killing has shown remorse" and apologised for taking the life of the boy.

According to the judge, the judgment will serve as deterrent to policemen who feel they could take

life at will just because they are armed.

Speaking to journalists after the judgment, Jude Nwaokoro, lead counsel

to the applicants, said "the judgment has resolved the issue of the violation of the fundamental human rights of the deceased."

2019: Udu PDP Pledges Support For Okowa, Uviejibor

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Udu Local Government Area of Delta State has promised to work towards the re-election of Governor Ifeanyi Okowa and Peter Uviejibor, representing Udu in the House of Assembly, in 2019.

At the celebration of progress and unity of the party in the area, Uviejibor, the chief host, thanked the people for their unity and support for him over the years.

His words: "We are here to celebrate the good news of God and indomitable spirit of the good people of Udu constituency."

"In 2015, when I went into the hallowed chamber, I cultivated the pas-

sage that with the help and approval of our amiable governor, Senator (Dr.) Ifeanyi Okowa, these electioneering promises have so far been achieved."

The lawmaker also appreciated Okowa for his developmental strides in Udu and the state in general.

"I, therefore, reaffirm my commitment in positive representation of my constituents at the hallowed chamber and to further reaffirm my allegiance to our great party, PDP, with all my distinguished followers in ensuring that our party moves to the next level."

"I remain appreciative of your unequivocal backing for a second

Olusesan Daini, Chairman, Igbogbo Balyeku Local Council Development Area, Ikorodu, flanked by Mohammed Momoh, Coordinator, National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) Lagos State (left); and Senator Ganlyu Solomon, special

