

Court Sentences Civil Servant To Death By Hanging For Killing Lawyer

A Sokoto State High Court on Tuesday sentenced a 37-year-old civil servant, Atiku Galadima, to death by hanging for killing a lawyer, Sirajo Abubakar.

Justice Bello Duwale said the prosecution was able to prove with cogent circumstantial evidence that the convict intentionally killed the deceased.

The judge rejected the defendant's plea of a misunderstanding, noting that based on the evidence before him, such plea was not plausible and that the prosecution was able to establish all the in-

gredients of culpable homicide as provided for in section 220 of the Penal Code.

The convict was said to have slit the throat of Abubakar on June 3, 2012 and ran away to Kaduna before he was arrested and arraigned in 2016.

The judge also held that the prosecution led by Yakubu Sani, a principal state counsel, had relied on circumstantial evidence that the convict was the last person seen with deceased and he also failed to give account of his whereabouts on that day.

In convicting Galad-

ima, the judge said, the court relied on the fact that the convict became a fugitive for four years.

Justice Duwale said: "Consequently I find the accused guilty of committing the offence.

"As such in view of our findings and with the circumstance mentioned in section 221(B) of the Penal Code law, the accused is hereby sentenced to death by hanging," the Judge said.

Duwale further stated that Galadima had a right to appeal the judgment within three months.

Police Order Manhunt For Criminals In Edo, Delta, Bayelsa

The Zone 5 of the Nigerian Police, Benin City, Edo State, has ordered its personnel to go after criminals in the zone, which comprises the commands in Edo, Delta and Bayelsa states.

Speaking on Wednesday during a security meeting with Muhammad Mustapha, Johnson Babatunde Kokumo, and Don Awunah, the commissioners of police of Delta, Edo and Bayelsa states respectively, Rasheed Olatunde Akintunde, the Assistant Inspector General of Police (AIG) in charge of the zone, said crime was no longer tolerated in the zone.

Akintunde, who convened the meeting due to the recent attacks on policemen in Edo and Delta state commands,

which resulted to death of personnel, charged the police commissioners to fish out the criminals for prosecution, describing the situation as appalling.

In a release of the resolutions at the meeting made available to the media by Emeka Iheanacho, a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) and the police spokesperson of the zone, the AIG urged the policemen to always be security conscious in order to repel criminal activities effectively.

"During the meeting, the AIG condemned the recent attacks on policemen in Edo and Delta state commands resulting to the death of policemen and ordered the commissioners of police of

Edo and Delta states to fish out the perpetrators of these heinous crimes," the release read.

The AIG also warned against the use of illegal firearms, saying that anyone found in possession of arms would be arrested and prosecuted. He, however, reaffirmed the commitment of the zone to ensuring adequate security of lives and property of residents of Bayelsa, Delta and Edo states at all time.

He pointed out that the recent attack on policemen in different parts of the zone would not deter his men from carrying out their constitutional duties as the zone, he said, remained resolute in its fight against crime and criminality.