

Two Arraigned For Allegedly Shooting Friend To Death While Testing Efficacy Of Gun Charm



By SAMSON NWAFOR 2:03 am , Thu, 20 February 20

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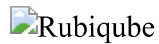
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ABAKALIKI – Two suspects, Richard Okpu, and Ginikachi Idam, were on Wednesday arraigned in a Magistrate Court sitting in Abakaliki, for allegedly shooting to death their friend, one Kelechi Isaac, while testing the efficiency of a charm prepared for him to stop bullet penetration into his body.

It was gathered that the victim had gone to a native doctor and obtained a charm, that would prevent bullets from penetrating into his body, any time he was shot at.

It was in the process of testing the efficacy of the charm after he had drank some concoction prepared for him that he allegedly asked his friends (the suspects) to fire some bullets into his body, leading to his death.



The late Isaac was alleged to have brought the gun with which his friends fired the bullets at him. The friends were reported to have fired the deceased on the chest.

It was gathered that the suspects allegedly committed the offence on February 5, 2020, at Amasiri, in the Afikpo North Local Government Area, of the state.

Richard Okpu, one of the suspects said, “I don’t know this kind of temptation. We were on our own and our friend, because three of us are friends, came and told us he has got ode eshii (charm) and that any of us, who drinks of the concoction and is shot at would not have the bullets penetrate his body.

“We said okay, how do we know if it is working? He went and brought a gun from one hunter and said we should shoot at him, that the bullets would not enter. It was then that we fired at him and he fell on the floor instantly.



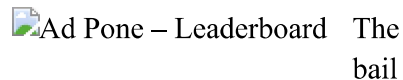
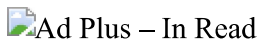
“We didn’t mean to kill him. We just wanted to test the efficacy of the charm. God, please help us.’

They were arraigned on two counts bothering on murder and felony.

The Police Prosecutor, Inspector Edet Effiong, told the court that the offence was punishable under sections 324 and 319 (1) of the Criminal Code Cap. 33, Vol. 1, Laws of Ebonyi State of Nigeria, 2009.

The charge read, “That you Richard Okpu, 20 years, and Ginikachi Idam, 18 years, on the 5th day of February, 2020, at Amasiri community Afikpo North in the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court did conspire among yourselves to commit felony to wit; murder and thereby committed an offence punishable under section 324 of the Criminal Code Cap. 33, Vol. 1, Laws of Ebonyi State of Nigeria, 2009.

“That you Richard Okpu, and Ginikachi Idam on the same date and place, in the aforesaid Magisterial District did unlawfully cause the death of Kelechi Isaac, by shooting him with a gun and thereby committed an offence punishable under Section 319 (1) of the Criminal Code Cap. 33, Vol. 1, Laws of Ebonyi State of Nigeria 2009.”



The bail

Application made by the suspects Defence Counsel, E.C. Nwokposi, that his clients be admitted to bail, was not granted.

The Chief Magistrate, Chinedu Agama, said the court did not have the jurisdiction to adjudicate on the matter.

He directed that the suspects be remanded at the Nigerian Correctional Centre, Abakaliki, while their case file should be forwarded to the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions in the state, for necessary advice.

The matter was adjourned till March 3, 2020, for report of compliance.