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Man, 26, To Die By Hanging For Kidnap, Murder

Alo Abiola

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An Ekiti State High Court of Justice, Ikere Division yesterday sentenced a 26-year-old commercial motorcyclist, Theophilus Pius to death by hanging over his role in the murder of a youth corps member, Anthonia Okeke in 2008.

The court also sentenced Pius to 10 years imprisonment for his complicity in the kidnap of Anthonia, which led to her death in the hands of ritualists.

Anthonia, a graduate of Chemical Engineering of Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Anambra State, was kidnapped in Ilawe Ekiti, Ekiti Southwest local government area of Ekiti State where she was observing her mandatory national service on December 19, 2008 by Pius and his gang.

Justice Adegoriola Adeleye while delivering his judgement in the six-year old case yesterday, said he found the evidence presented by the Director of Public Prosecution from the state Ministry of Justice, Mr Adeleye Familoni against Pius as having probative value and reliable enough to convince him that the accused was guilty of the crime.

"I want to submit that the prosecution counsel has been able to prove his case beyond reasonable doubt. He has been able to establish that the defendant is culpable and no criminal shall go unpunished in the face of the law," he said.

Adeleye ruled that Pius should die by hanging, having found him guilty of murder just as he sentenced him to 10 years jail term for his complicity in the kidnap of the late corps member.

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