

# Court Orders Police To Pay For Extra Judicial Killings

2 BY ANDREW OJIH, Jalingo

A Federal High Court sitting in Jalingo, yesterday, ordered the Nigeria Police to pay N7.5 million each as compensation for the extra-judicial killing of Terhile Ikpi-la and Loho Dutse both of Wukari local government area of Taraba.

This followed a case filed on February 4, 2014 by Peter Ikpila and Bem Dutse accusing the Nigeria Police of unlawfully killing the deceased on Nov 16, 2013 along Jalingo-Wukari Road.

Counsel to the plaintiffs, Mr A. Chukwuma, said the police killed the deceased when they were travelling to Wukari for an all night

church programme.

Chukwuma explained that his clients were ordered to lie face down by arm robbers, who robbed them and flee only for police to come and killed the helpless victims.

He said the action of the police contravened the fundamental human rights of the deceased as contained in section 33 (1) and 46 of the 1999 constitution as amended.

Chukwuma prayed the court to direct the police to pay the families N400 million compensation for the damage done since they refused to fish out the officers that carried out the act for punishment.

"The armed robbers had gone

at the time the police team arrived but the victims were still lying down in fear and did not know that the people that came were policemen.

"It was after they had shot and killed the deceased and injured Terhemen Meer that Bem Francis screamed that they were not armed robbers, but were forced to lie down by the armed robbers," he said.

Counsel to the Police, Mr Henry Ogbeiwi, argued that it was stray bullets from the exchange of gunfire between the police and the armed robbers that killed the victims.

## Zambian Top Diplomat Ruffles Ties With Nigeria