



Agency wades into death of victims of torture

■ Kunle AKINRINADE ■

FOLLOWING a report published last week on the controversial death of some persons allegedly tortured to death in Ayobo, a Lagos suburb in 2008, the Lagos State Public Advice Centre (LSPAC) has stepped into the matter.

About 12 persons were allegedly beaten and tortured on the orders of the Oba of Ayobo, in his palace. Two of the men, named Abiodun Oyejobi (a.k.a Ololo) and Muritala Jinadu, were said to have lost their lives alongside five others as a result of the torture.

The matter was reported to the Police, while a murder charge was instituted at the Ebute Metta Magistrate's Court against Oba Arole Idowu Ojoijo, Chief Nojimu Tihamiyu Bada, Mojadeen Anisere, Tajudeen Balogun, Yusuf Adeyinka and Dayo Akinrinade.

The family said the suit was surprisingly withdrawn by the Directorate of Public Prosecution (DPP) on January 12, 2011.

The matter took a twist when the

family said it has secured the footage of the scene of the torture and demanded for a revisit of the case. Shortly after the story was published last Saturday, the spokesman of the agency, Mr Alex Bolaji Omorodion, called the reporter on the telephone asking for the contacts of the bereaved family.

On Monday, the family, represented by Chief Moruf Owonla aka Kaka, visited LSPAC's office at Alausa, Ikeja, where he explained how two members of his family were allegedly abducted and tortured to death.

"We visited LSPAC's office on Monday and narrated how our family members were killed on the orders of Alayobo of Ayobo, Oba Arole Idowu Ojoijo, on July 10, 2008 and an official of the agency who attended to us said that the agency would look into the matter. We hope their intervention will engender a revisit of the case that was shockingly withdrawn from the court by the Directorate of Public Prosecution (DPP) a few years ago."