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The suspects ... yesterday

## Gardener, four others charged with murder

Posted by: Rukayat Jimoh in City Beats ⌚ 13 hours ago

Five persons were yesterday arraigned before an Ebute Meta Magistrate Court in Lagos for the alleged murder of a 32-year-old driver, Sonye Chukwudi Bosco.

They are Anthony Toms, 20, a gardener; Godwin Francis, Michael Inyang, Evidence David and Etuk Tony.

Prosecuting Police Inspector Emmanuel Ajayi said they conspired to murder and rob Bosco of 4,750 cash.

Toms said he took revenge on the deceased who he claimed was owing him N6000 balance from a flour sale.

Toms invited the late Bosco, who operated around GRA, Ikeja, to Ransome Kuti Gardens in Anthony Village, under the pretence of meeting with a businesswoman that supplies flour.

The defendants, it was learnt, thought the late Bosco was rich because he used a Mercedes Benz 320 saloon car.

Tony, one of the defendants, described Toms as their leader, saying: "Anthony is the ring leader who told us that the driver is rich and that if we robbed him, we could sell the car for N2 million. And I told him I would do it as long as money is involved."

But Toms said: "I did it to revenge what he (driver) did to me. The driver is a gay; he slept with me several times and paid me only N1,500. He bought flour from me but refused to pay me N6,000".

The defendants allegedly tortured the late driver at the Ransome Kuti Gardens and demanded money from him.

They were said to have bound the deceased's hands, mouth and legs and hit him on the head till he died.

They were said to have covered his body with empty bags of flour before taking away his Mercedes Benz car.

One of the defendants, who is a driver, was said to have planned with the others to sell the car out of Lagos.

However, the police intercepted and arrested them on the Gbagada Expressway with the car.

Ajayi urged the court to remand the suspects in prison custody pending legal advice from the Director of Public Prosecution (DPP).

The offence, according to the prosecutor, contravened Sections 409, 295, 221 and 404 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State of Nigeria, 2011.

The defence counsel, Spurgeon Ataene, applied that his clients be remanded for 30 days.

Magistrate O.O. Olatunji ordered that they be remanded and adjourned the case till July 31.

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