

Court remands three over 200-level varsity student's death in hotel room

THE Chief Magistrate Court 1 Makurdi, presided over by Vincent Kor, has ordered that three accused persons be remanded in Makurdi correctional centre for criminal conspiracy and culpable homicide.

Kelvin Jibo, Joseph Edef and David Abur had been charged with the death of a 200 level student, Veronica Takor, who was found dead in a hotel room in Makurdi on March 20.

In the First Information Report (FIR) read before the court, police prosecutor, Inspector Bem Kange, said on March 19, 2022, one Sarah Takor reported to the police that her daughter, 26-year-old Veronica Takor, had gone missing at her shop where she was selling second hand

From Uja Emmanuel, Makurdi

clothing materials.

However, on March 20, 2022, one Kelvin Jibo came to their house in the morning with Veronica's hand set and key, saying that she was unconscious, at Madona Guest House where she was later found dead.

Kange said Jibo was arrested and investigation led to the arrest of two more suspects while the fourth suspect, Sunday Iforobong, was still at large.

No plea was taken because of lack of jurisdiction, and the Chief Magistrate, Vincent Kor, adjourned the case to June 9, 2022 and ordered

that the three accused persons be remanded in the Makurdi Correctional Centre for further mention.

Counsel to Veronica's family, Barrister Solomon Torluam, holding the brief for Barrister Justine Gbagir, said the autopsy report was ready and they were ready to go ahead with the trial.

A family member, Beetseh Terhide Mark, who spoke with The Nation, said while Veronica Takor was dead and nothing more could be done about it, the family wants justice to be done to serve as a deterrent to others who might think that they can take people's lives without a consequence.

Kidnapping: Kwara court sentences five herdsmen to life imprisonment

From Adekunle Jimoh, Ilorin

THE Kwara State High Court sitting in Ilorin has sentenced five herdsmen to life imprisonment for kidnapping.

The convicts are Tambaya Abubakar, Baguga Umar, Shehu Umaru, Abubakar Juli and Mamma Lawali.

The charge said that the convicts conspired and kidnapped one Usman Mohammed while they were armed with two single barrel guns at Osi, Ekiti Local Government of the state.

The charge further revealed that the convicts took Mohammed into the bush and demanded ransom, forcing the victim's family to pay the sum of N400,000.

In her judgment, Justice Hannah Ajayi said the convicts were guilty of the offences of kidnapping and illegal possession of firearms.

After the judgment, the state's Director of Public Prosecution, Barrister Abdulmumini A. Jimoh (SAN) said the verdict would serve as deterrent to other criminally minded individuals.

One dead, three injured in Lagos gas explosion

By Precious Igbonwelundu

ONE person identified as Hassan Usman was on Thursday night killed and three others injured after a gas explosion occurred at the Amuwo Odofin area of Lagos State.

The explosion, which occurred at a gas station inside Amuwo Odofin Industrial Estate, was said to have caused panic among residents.

A witness, Wasiu Alabi, told reporters that they were frightened by a loud sound around 11pm, adding that even those who were already sleeping woke up and took to their heels.

"The loud bang took everyone unaware. People were running in different directions. Those who were already asleep woke up and ran too.

"I was still in my shop with some customers when all of a sudden we heard a loud bang like the sound of a bomb.

"We saw fire engulf Archers Gas Company. I knew that there must be casualty and I thought it would be more than what we saw when we arrived the scene.

"I thank God that the casualty figure is not more than one, but I am afraid with the conditions of the three others who were injured.

"Hassan Usman died on the spot while three others suffered serious burns. The injured were rushed to the hospital.

"I want to appeal to the state government and authorities concerned to look into the issues of siting gas stations in residential areas. This is too bad.

"We should thank God that the explosion did not occur in the day time. If it had happened in the day time, especially when customers were buying gas, it would have been more disastrous."

A senior police officer who spoke on condition of anonymity at the Area E Command, Festac, confirmed there was a gas explosion at Archers Gas limited at about 11 pm, adding that one Bode Adelu, an assistant to the company's Managing Director, reported the incident at the station.

"They reported that one person died, three others were injured while property worth millions of naira was destroyed. The complainants told us that the injured were rushed to a hospital in Mushin.

"Immediately we got the report, our DPO, CSP Gboyega Balogun, led a team of policemen to the scene where necessary things were done and the body of Usman was evacuated and taken to Mainland Hospital Mortuary for autopsy.

"We are yet to determine the cause of the explosion. We are investigating."