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Ajah crisis: Court orders IG to release 5 men on bail

Written by Peter Fowoyo— Lagos | Monday, 10 February 2014 00:00 | font size | Print | Email

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A Lagos High Court sitting in Igboosere, Lagos has ordered the Inspector General of Police to immediately release five residents of Olomowewe community in Lekki, Eti-Osa Ajah, Lagos from police custody on bail pending the hearing and determination of the motion on notice filed by their lawyers.

Besides, Justice Oluwatoyin Taiwo granted the applicants an order of injunction restraining the respondents whether by themselves, agents, servants, privies or any other person acting on or purporting to act on the respondents' instructions or otherwise from arresting, detaining, harassing, invading Olomowewe community in any manner pending the hearing and determination of the motion on notice filed in this action.

The applicants are: Mr Jamiu Asegere, Mr Hassan Aguda, Mr Taiwo Mustapher Aguda, Mr Olorunosebi Tijani and Mr Jamiu Tijani.

Sued alongside the IG are: Nigerian Police Force, Commissioner of Police, The Commander, Area G Police Command, Ajiwe Lagos State, Mrs Mulikat Mudashiru Afunmo and Mr Olusegun Shafiriyu Danmole.

When the matter came up, the applicants' lawyers, Mr Adenrele Adegrioye, leading Mr Tejumade Muyideen and Mr Tope Ajayi from Chief Bolaji Ayorinde chambers, informed the court that there was a motion on notice brought pursuant to order 4 Rules 1,2,3,4 (A) (B) (C) (C1) (CII) (CIII) (CIV) of the Fundamental Rights (Enforcement Procedure) Rules 2009 sections 34, 35, 36, 41, 44, 46 of the Constitution and Articles 23 (1) and (2), 4, 5, 6, 7, 12 (1) and 14 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights (1981) Order 39 Rule 1 of High Court of Lagos state Civil Procedure Rules 2012.

According to Mr Adegrioye, the respondents went into the community with guns and started shooting on January 29th, 2014. "Milord, a resident of the community was shot and killed by the police; they also arrested other five members of the community moving them from one police station to another in Lagos, until they finally moved them to Abuja, without charging them to court. The police are working against the law of the land, our constitution stipulates they must charge them to court under 48 hours but now, the fundamental rights of the applicants are violated".

However, Justice Taiwo upbraided the police for not complying with the constitution, noting that

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"there seems to be a political undertone surrounding the arrest of the applicants."

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
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
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
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