

assisted by the Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) FCID, Abuja, Mr Hycent Dagala in Abuja on Wednesday. PHOTO: SUNDAY OSUNRAYI

below 18."

11 years after, court sentences 2 persons to 21 years imprisonment each for killing OSPOLY students

OLUWOLE IGE - OSOGBO

JUSTICE Isiaka Adeleke of an Osun State High Court, sitting in Ilesa, on Wednesday, sentenced two men to 21 years imprisonment each without option of fine for murder.

The convicts, Olabisi Olujuwon (42) and Kayode Opeolu (55), were arraigned before the court on a three-count charge of conspiracy, attempted murder and murder, which were contrary to sections 324, 320 and 319 of the Criminal Code volume. 11, Cap 34, Laws of Osun State.

The prosecution team

from the state Ministry of Justice, led by the Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, Dr Ajibola Basiru, appeared along with the Chief State Counsel, Mrs Rachael Ojimi.

Dr Ajibola had earlier told the court that the convicts committed the crime on September 24, 2006.

The convicts, claiming to be members of a vigilance group, stopped the motorcycle conveying Omotayo Ogunlaja, Bashiru Saheed and Oluwale Segun, students of the Osun State Polytechnic (OSPOLY), Iree, who were on their way

to Ada area of the state.

They were said to have described Ogunlaja as one of the cultists terrorising the community and the three students were driven in a van to a bush along Eripa-Otan-Ayegbaju Road, where their hands were tied behind them.

Later, they were shot, but Ogunlaja pretended to be dead and he was dumped in a nearby ditch.

However, out of the two students who were shot dead by the vigilance group members, one of them was subsequently beheaded, just as the assailants swore

to an oath not to reveal the secret and if caught not to mention anyone's name.

However, in the early hours of September 25, 2006, Omotayo crawled out of the ditch and was assisted to the hospital, where he volunteered his statement to the police, which culminated in the arrest of the convicts who also made confessional statements.

During the course of the trial, the prosecuting counsels called five witnesses to testify in the court.

Meanwhile, while the trial was ongoing, the first accused person, identified

as Wemimo Adewale, died and his name was struck out from the charge.

Counsel to the convicts, Mr Julius Akhigbe, pleaded with the court to temper justice with mercy, saying his clients were already regretting their actions.

Delivering his judgment, Justice Adeleke held that the prosecution counsel had proved the case beyond reasonable doubt, stressing that from evidence before the court, he was satisfied.

He, therefore, sentenced each of them to 21 years imprisonment.

Enugu govt to install 24-hour solar power in 45 police divisions

THE Enugu State government for Information, Mr Ogunlaja, disclosed police to overcome the perennial difficulties their officers reported cases at night, especially when there was power state.

He said that simple but