

Six suspects arraigned for pastor's death

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SIX persons were arraigned at an Osogbo Magistrate's Court on Friday, for allegedly conspiring and killing a pastor, David Popoola, in Ijebu-Jesa two weeks ago.

The suspects are Bose Edward (26); James Samuel (25); Anthony Gabriel (28); Sade Ojo (20); Gabriel Felicia (24); and Kehinde James (27).

The charge sheet said that the suspects committed the crime on March 5 by hitting the pastor with a stick, which caused his death.

Police prosecutor, Sergeant Wilson Mereti, told the court that the prime suspect, Edward, was a girlfriend to the late pastor.

Mereti said investigation by the police had shown that Edward and other suspects hit Popoola with a stick during an argument over Edward's alleged infidelity.

The prosecutor told the court that the late founder of Crescent Baptist Church, Ijebu-Jesa, had asked after Edward in her residence but was told by her younger sister, Funmilayo,

that she had gone out.

Subsequently, Popoola requested Funmilayo to take him to where Edward was, which she did.

Mereti said Popoola met Edward with another man, James Samuel, at the residence, where Funmilayo took him to and a fight ensued.

According to Mereti, Edward denied knowing Popoola despite the claim by the pastor that the lady was carrying his baby.

One of the suspects, Felicia Gabriel, told the court that she was in her brother's room when the fight started.

Gabriel said that neither she nor two other suspects-Sade Ojo and Anthony Gabriel-beat the pastor.

She told the court that the pastor slapped Edward, leading to a free-for-all.

The magistrate, Mr. Jide Falola, said that his court lacked the jurisdiction to hear a case of murder.

Adjourning the case to May 9, 2007, for mention, Falola ordered the suspects to be remanded in prison custody.

Popoola was married with two children.