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## Edo executes four convicts by hanging

JUNE 25, 2013 BY JAMES AZANIA AND ADE ADESOMOJU 59 COMMENTS

**Edo State Governor, Adams Oshiomhole**

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Edo State Government on Monday confirmed the execution of four convicted criminals.

The convicts were reportedly executed by hanging, a development that has elicited condemnation from Amnesty International.

The international human rights group, in a statement, had called for restraint on the part of the Nigerian government in carrying out the exercise.

When contacted, state Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice, Henry Idahagbon, confirmed the execution.

He said their convictions were secured years ago from the Supreme Court and that the criminals were convicted outside the state, but had been in prison in Benin.

On claims that there was a stay of execution order, Idahagbon said his office got the stay order but that the execution was not carried out by his office.

The prison authorities, however, claimed they did not receive any stay of execution order.

Deputy Director for Africa, AI, Lucy Freeman, said, "If confirmed, these executions mark a setback to the use of the death penalty in Nigeria, a truly dark day for human rights in the country."

"We again urge the Nigerian authorities to stop all executions immediately and return to the moratorium on execution in the country. We oppose the death penalty in all cases without exception, as it is the ultimate cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment."

Also, a legal rights group, Legal Defence Assistance Project, condemned the execution.

The group's National Coordinator, Mr. Chino Obiagwu, said the execution of the inmates was in violation of the appeal he filed on behalf of all death row inmates in the country.

Obiagwu said, "Today, the LEDAP frowns on the execution of four death row prisoners – Chima Ejiofor, Daniel Nsofor, Osarenmwinda Aiguokhan and Richard Igagu – in Edo State despite their pending appeals at the court of appeal."

"The AG of Edo State and the prison authorities were duly served with the court processes, comprising the notice of appeal and motion for stay of execution."

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