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Four suspected cultists remanded for killing three

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Four suspected cultists – Lekan Oseni, Toyin Muyili, Uche Anthony, Ibrahim Babiu – have been ordered to be remanded in prison custody for the alleged murder of three people.

The four defendants were arraigned on Monday before an Ebute Meta Magistrate's Court on 14 counts of conspiracy, attempted murder, murder, and membership of an unlawful society.

The police said the incident happened in the Bariga area of Lagos State.

The defendants were said to have committed the crime between September 4, 2011 and August 22, 2012, and the police had been on their trail before nemesis caught up with them.

The police prosecutor, Sergeant Cousin Adams, said the defendants and some others at large, deployed guns and other weapons in committing the crime.

He added that they belonged to a cult group known as "EFCC Fraternity."

They were also accused of using the fraternity to terrorise people in the Bariga Community, including demanding money, and other valuable property from residents.

He said, "The accused also killed four people – Peter Selle Peter, Fredrick Ogba, Tunbosun Salako and James Aromire.

"The accused further attempted to kill other three persons after they attacked them."

The offence was said to be punishable under sections 42, 221, 231, 228, 299 and 409 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, Nigeria, 2011.

The defendants' plea was not taken.

Adams then filed application for their remand in prison pending legal advice from the Directorate of Public Prosecution.

"This is pursuant to Section 264 of the Administration of Criminal Justice, Lagos State, 2011. We believe this will also help the police conclude all investigations and duplicate the case file for transfer to the DPP for legal advice," he said.

The magistrate, Mrs K.O Ogundare, granted the remand application and ordered that the four defendants be kept in the Ikoyi Prison pending the DPP's advice.

The matter was adjourned till Jan 20, 2014 for mention.