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Court remands man, others for killing witness

 FEBRUARY 12, 2014 BY ENIOLA AKINKUOTU [LEAVE A COMMENT](#)

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Taibu

| credits: Eniola Akinkuotu

A Chief Magistrate's Court in Owode Egba, Ogun State has remanded a 60-year-old man, Ayinde Ogunleye; and two others – Oluyemi Shoyoye and Michael Eje – for the alleged murder of a 45-year-old man, Taibu Siwoku.

The remand comes over seven months after the alleged killing occurred.

According to relatives of the deceased, the three suspects and others at large allegedly shot Siwoku to death because he was billed to testify against them in court.

The brother to the deceased, Jamiu Siwoku, told *PUNCH Metro* that the incident occurred in Magbon Etido, Obafemi Owode Local Government Area on July 21, 2013.

Jamiu said, "My brother was to be a witness in court against some land grabbers in the area. Some of them had even assaulted a court bailiff who had come to serve them with a notice.

"On July 21, the thugs shot my brother around the middle section of the body. The attackers took his body away before dumping it not too far off.

"My brother had four children, the oldest being 18, while the youngest is just two years. His wife is a petty trader and she has been struggling since his murder."

Jamiu said the matter was initially handled at the State Criminal Investigation Department, Elewera, Abeokuta, but was later transferred to the Zone 2 Police Command, Onikan, Lagos.

It was learnt that the deceased's family wrote a petition to the Inspector General of Police, Mohammed Abubakar, who then ordered that the matter be transferred back to the SCID in Ogun State.

Three of the alleged killers were thereafter arrested and charged for murder.

The charges read in part, "That you, Ayinde Ogunleye, Oluyemi Shoyoye and Michael Eje, with others still at large, on the 28th day of July 2013, at about 4.30pm, at Magbon Etido via Owode Egba in the Owode Egba Magisterial District, did conspire to commit felony to wit; murder, and thereby committed an offence punishable under Section 324 of the Criminal Code, Laws of Ogun State, 2006.

"That you, Ayinde Ogunleye, Oluyemi Shoyoye and Michael Eje, with others at large, on the same time, date and place in the aforementioned magisterial district did unlawfully kill one Toheed Siwoku aged 45 years by shooting him with a gun and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 316 and punishable under Section 319 of the Criminal Code, Laws of Ogun State, 2006."

The pleas of the accused persons were not taken.

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The Magistrate, Mr. B.J Ojikutu, ordered that they be remanded in Oba Prison pending advice from the Directorate of Public Prosecutions.

The matter was adjourned till April 19.

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