

Court remands five for robbery, murder

August 11, 2016



Igboere court

Afeez Hanafi

A Lagos State Magistrate's Court sitting in Igboere on Wednesday ordered the remand of five suspects arraigned for armed robbery and murder.

The defendants – Samuel Igwe, 43; Fatai Dauda, 40; Godwin Ibong, 45; Yomi Oguntade, 45; and 41-year-old Evans Nwosu – were brought before a Chief Magistrate, Mrs. A.T. Omoyele, on three counts bordering on the crimes.

The police said the gang members, while allegedly armed with guns and cutlasses, stormed two warehouses on Kolawole Street, Ajao Estate, Lagos on May 31, 2016 around 1am and carted away

Shares is worth N50m.

stolen goods, according to the police, included two truckloads of Haano tin tomatoes, a kload of reams of paper and aluminium roofing sheets and rolls, which belong to one Deckay up Nigeria Limited.

defendants were said to have killed one Romanus Onyeneke, one of the security guards ining the warehouses, during the robbery.

lying for the remand of the defendants, the police prosecutor, Sgt. Cyriacus Osuji, told the court Wednesday that the offences preferred against them were punishable under sections 409, 295 221 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2011.

said, "Our prayer is on the grounds that the defendants conspired amongst themselves while in on Custody and carried out robbery at Deckay Group Nigeria Limited and in the process of carrying out the robbery one of the security guards was murdered."

The defence counsel, Daniel Abbey, opposed the remand application, on the grounds that the defendants had been in the police custody for over two months.

He said granting the prosecution's application would amount to violation of his clients' fundamental human rights and urged the court to admit them to bail.

He said, "The defendants have families who depend solely on them for their survival. They are suffering untold hardships; so, we urge the court to grant them bail."

However, the magistrate, in her ruling, said the court could not find a genuine reason to grant the defendants bail.

"The defendants should be remanded in prison custody for the first 30 days pending the legal advice from the DPP," she added.

The case was adjourned till September 7, for the outcome of the DPP's advice.

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