

Ondo police arraign 16 men over killing of US-based entrepreneur

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Ondo State Police Command

Peter Dada, Akure

Sixteen persons were arraigned by the police at an Akure Chief Magistrate's Court on Thursday over the gruesome murder of one Banji Adafin, an entrepreneur based in the United States of America.

The deceased was allegedly killed at his residence at Muiyiwa Oni Avenue in Akure, the Ondo State capital, on July 4, 2017.

The accused persons were arraigned on five counts of conspiracy to commit felony, unlawful possession of firearms, armed robbery and murder.

The charge sheet says the 16 accused persons “commit felony to wit: armed robbery and thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 6 (b) of the Robbery and Firearms (Special Provisions) Act, Cap R11, Vol. 14, Law of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004.”

They allegedly robbed Adafin of valuables and a sum of N33,000 and at the time were “armed with guns and cutlasses and thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 1(2) (a) and (b) of the Robbery and Firearms (Special Provisions) Act, Cap R11, Vol. 14. Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004.”

They were also alleged to have murdered “Adafin and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 316 and punishable under Section 319 of the Criminal Code, Cap 37, Vol.1, Laws of Ondo State of Nigeria, 2006.”

When the case came up for hearing, the court ordered five of the accused persons to be released to the police for a fresh round of investigation, following the application made by the prosecutor, Mr. Martins Olowofeso.

The prosecutor said the request for the release of five of the accused for reinvestigation was sequel to the petition from the family of Late Banji Adafin who alleged a foul play in the matter and requested for further investigation by the police.

However, a lawyer from the office of the Director of Public Prosecution, Mr. Bamisile opposed the application saying that the police should have presented a written application to the court rather than an oral application moved by the prosecutor.

The accused persons released on the order of the court were Yomi Balogun, Blessing Ogunlade, Oluwaseun Oluwalolu, Sodiq Babatunde and Ayomoposi Oluwatosin.

In his ruling, Magistrate Gbenle Awodeyi, ordered the release of the suspects to the police for reinvestigation and fixed further hearing of the case to September 14, 2017.

