

Police arraign ex-convict before magistrate that sentenced him

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Olugoroye Olufemi

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There was a mild drama at an Ifo Chief Magistrate's Court after a 44-year-old man, Olugoroye Olufemi, was arraigned for allegedly being in possession of human parts.

The Chief Magistrate, S.T. Bello, after the charge was read to the defendant, recognised him and immediately asked if he was not the one she sentenced to two years' imprisonment in 2014 for a similar offence.

Bello also remembered that Olufemi used a different name in his first arraignment at an Ota Magistrate's Court.

The defendant, who owned up to the magistrate's observation, however, claimed that he was set up the second time.

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Olufemi had been arrested by men of the Zonal Intervention Squad, Obada/Oko Annex, Zone 2, on July 11, 2017.

He was allegedly found in possession of two human hands, one human heart and one dry human head.

The suspect was alleged to have killed an unidentified man from whom the parts were removed for money ritual.

The police said investigations showed that Olufemi had gone to prison twice over similar offences in the past.

He was arraigned on Thursday before Chief Magistrate Bello on three counts of murder and possession of human parts.

The charges read, “That you, Olugoroye Olufemi, and others at large, on July 11, 2017, at about 4pm at the Obada Oko area, in the Ifo Magisterial District, did conspire together to commit felony, to wit: murder, thereby committing an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 324 of the Criminal Code, Law of Ogun State of Nigeria, 2006.

“That you did unlawfully kill an unidentified victim by butchering him, thereby committing an offence contrary to Section 316 and punishable under Section 319 of the Criminal Code, Law of Ogun State of Nigeria, 2006.

“That you did unlawfully have in your possession two fresh human hands, one human heart and one dry human head without authority, thereby committing an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 329 (a) of the Criminal Code, Law of Ogun State of Nigeria, 2006.”

The charges were read to him in Yoruba and he said he understood them.

But his pleas were not taken, as the offences were capital and required legal advice from the Directorate of Public Prosecutions.

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The chief magistrate recalled convicting the defendant and sentencing him to two years' imprisonment in 2014 when she was serving in the Ota Magistrate's Court.

She also reminded the defendant that he adopted a different name, wondering why he returned to crime after his imprisonment.

The accused, who admitted to standing trial before the magistrate in the past, said he was innocent.

"I didn't commit the crime. I was set up," he said in Yoruba.

He didn't have any counsel to represent him.

The police prosecutor, Corporal A. Olayiwola, asked that the defendant should be remanded in prison pending the release of the DPP's advice.

The chief magistrate, who granted the application, adjourned the case till December 29, 2017.