

Abduction: Killers of NNPC employee get life jail

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After about six years of what an Abuja court described as “full blown trial,” two commercial taxi drivers, Taiwo Akinlade and Timothy Lekan, have been sentenced to life imprisonment for killing an employee of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation Transformation Office, Sylvester Emefiele.

The victim was killed after he was abducted on the night of September 23, 2012.

Justice O.A. Musa of the Federal Capital Territory High Court in the Bwari area of Abuja, discharged and acquitted three suspects, Saidi Baba Tunde, Banjo Olaniyi and Saliu Afeez.

While two of the persons discharged were arraigned for buying the properties belonging to the deceased, the third accused prepared the charm which was used to make Emefiele unconscious for weeks.

The accused were said to have confessed during interrogation by security operatives that the spirit of the deceased had been tormenting them.

The Certified True Copy of the judgment delivered on October 4, 2018, was obtained exclusively by *The PUNCH* in Jos on Sunday.

Justice Musa ordered that the accused should spend the rest of their lives in Kuje Prison in Abuja.

Justice Musa said, “Thus, I have no doubt that the prosecution has indeed proven the case as charged beyond reasonable doubt. I therefore found the first and second defendants guilty as charged and they are convicted of committing the offences of criminal conspiracy, contrary to Section 97 and culpable homicide, punishable with death under Section 221 (a) and (b) and sections 271, 274 of the Penal Code Act and Section 1 (2) (A) and (B) of the Robbery and Firearms (Special Provision) Act Law of the Federation of Nigeria (LFN) 2014.

“On the whole, the court, having been satisfied that the prosecution has proven its case beyond reasonable doubt against the first and second defendants, Taiwo Akinlade and Timothy Abidemi Lekan, whose evidence has shown at the trial that they both participated actively, knowing full well the consequences of their act and committed the offences of criminal conspiracy, contrary to Section 97 and culpable homicide, punishable with death under Section 221 (a) and (b) and section 271, 274 of the Penal Code Act and Section 1 (2) (A) and (B) of the Robbery and Firearms (Special Provision) Act Law of the Federation of Nigeria 2014.

“Consequently, I find the first and second accused guilty as charged and sentence them to life imprisonment, to serve the sentence in Kuje Prison, Abuja.”

SUNDAY PUNCH which broke the story had in its edition of October 14, 2012, exclusively reported about the disappearance of Emefiele, a native of Ewuru – Agbor in the Ika South Local Government Area of Delta State.

The deceased, who was travelling from Lagos, was abducted by two commercial drivers that operated between Kwali and Abuja City Road after picking him at the Giri Junction.