

Court remands driver, friend over Ogun businesswoman's killing

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Daud Olatunji, Abeokuta

An Ogun State Magistrates' Court sitting in Isabo, Abeokuta, on Friday, remanded a man, Gbenga Ogungbemi, 30, and his friend, Tosin Olibamoyo, 30, in a correctional centre over the murder of a businesswoman.

The defendants are facing three counts of armed robbery, murder and stealing.

The police prosecutor, Inspector Ishola Opayemi, had told the court that the defendants conspired among themselves to rob and murder the businesswoman, Evelyn Ebere, on March 10, 2020, around 8pm on the Sagamu-Benin Expressway.

Opayemi alleged that the defendants had conveyed the deceased in their car from Sagamu to Okitipupa in Ondo State.

He said the defendants, however, veered off the highway on the pretext of avoiding policemen, because the vehicle particulars had expired.

“The duo went ahead and robbed the passenger of N420,000 and strangled her and threw her body in the bush,” he stated.

The prosecutor said the offences contravened sections 516 (1), 324 and 319(1) of the Criminal Code, Vol 1, Laws of Ogun State, 2006.

Opayemi said Ogungbemi informed detectives during interrogation that he was the driver of the Toyota Carina car with number plate AGD 107 GU with which he conveyed the victim on a charter arrangement to Ire-Ekiti, where she intended to buy 26 kegs of palm oil.

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The prosecutor said Ogungbemi also confessed that he was accompanied by his friend, Olibamoyo, on the journey.

He added that since the deceased knew them very well, being his regular customer, they decided to kill her and dump her corpse in the bush.

But when the charges were read to them, the defendants pleaded not guilty.

The magistrate, Mrs Folake Ogundele, however, ordered their remand in a correctional facility pending legal advice from the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Ogundele adjourned the matter till July 14, 2020, for mention.