

METRO PLUS

Court frees okada rider accused of murder after six years in detention

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Lagos State High Court Ikeja

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A Lagos State High Court in Ikeja, on Tuesday, acquitted a commercial motorcyclist, Tashiru Ibrahim, of murder after he had been in detention for six years.

Ibrahim was arraigned on one count of murder before Justice Hakeem Oshodi.

The prosecutor, M. A. Adewoye, had alleged that Ibrahim killed one Sodiq Olayiwola by stabbing him in the leg with a knife during an argument over money on July 12, 2014, around 8.30pm in Ikeja.

Delivering his judgment, Justice Oshodi said the prosecution failed to provide sufficient evidence to prove the offence of murder against Ibrahim.

Justice Oshodi stated that the prosecution called two witnesses, who were the siblings of the deceased.

He said, “Upon the evaluation of the evidence of the prosecution witnesses, it was clear that they were not present at the venue of the alleged stabbing on the day of the incident. None of these witnesses gave evidence as to the particulars of the offence, which is the stabbing of the deceased in the leg.

“The evidence they gave were just a narration of what they were told by other people namely: the deceased’s father, the doctor and some people at the hospital. The deceased’s father, the doctor and the people at the hospital did not give evidence in this case. The police, who should have investigated the case, did not give evidence during trial.

“The prosecution witnesses did not know the date of the alleged incident or the name of the hospital their late brother was taken to. The evidence available was that of the prosecution witnesses, who were not eyewitnesses to the alleged stabbing carried out by the defendant. They only became aware of the incident on the second day. Their evidence is hearsay.

“Having evaluated the evidence before it, the court holds and finds that the prosecution has been unable to prove a case of murder. As a consequence, the court finds the defendant, Tashiru Ibrahim, not guilty of the sole count. He is hereby discharged and acquitted. He is to be released from the correctional facility immediately.”

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