

COURT NEWS

Court sentences man to death for killing policeman, terrorism

Abiodun Nejo, Ado Ekiti

AN Ekiti State High Court sitting in Ado Ekiti has sentenced a 35 years old man, Abdulsalam Adinoyi, to death by hanging for offences ranging from killing of a policeman at a checkpoint in the

state and terrorism to other sundry offences.

Adinoyi was arraigned on five count charges bordering on armed robbery, terrorism, unlawful possession of firearms, and attacking policemen at a checkpoint in Oye Ekiti and in the

process killing a sergeant, Gana Giya, among other offences.

The charge sheet read in part, "Adinoyi, who hails from Okene, Kogi State, between December 22, 2016 and March 20, 2017 while armed with gun, attacked and robbed Sergeant Gana Jiya

and other police officers at a checkpoint in Oye Ekiti, murdered Sergeant Jiya on the spot while other policemen on duty sustained serious degrees of gun wounds and he carted away two AK-47 assault rifles."

He was also accused of having

"launched terrorism attack on people of Ekiti State and his environs, confessed to be a member of Boko Haram and unlawfully in possession of AK-47 assault rifle among others."

The offences, according to the charge, "were contrary to Sections 1 (2) (a) and 3(1) of the Robbery and Firearms (Special Provisions) Act Cap C16, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, Sections 316 of the Criminal Code Law, Cap C16, Laws of Ekiti State, 2012 and Sections 11 and 12 of the Ekiti State Kidnapping and Terrorism (Prohibition Law), 2015".

In his confessional statement, Adinoyi said members of his group, Abu Uwais and Aminu a.k.a. Idi-Amin, now at large, were planning for an operation when police officers came to his house, searched the place and recovered AK-47 assault rifle among other items.

The prosecutor, Gbemiga Adaramola, called five witnesses including police officers who

were at the scene and tendered exhibits including AK-47 assault rifle, statement of the defendants and the victims, photographs, compact discs containing Boko Haram trainings, five sim cards and packs, flash drive, empty bullet shells and medical reports among others.

In the judgment, Justice Lekan Ogunmoye, said "I hold that the prosecution proved his case beyond reasonable doubt against the defendant, thus, implying his (Adinoyi's) culpability in all the charges against him."

"The sole issue for determination is accordingly resolved in favour of the prosecution. The defendant is hereby found guilty as charged, he is accordingly sentenced to death by hanging in counts 1, 2 and 3. May Almighty God have mercy on his soul."

"He is also sentenced to 20 years imprisonment in Count 4 and 10 years imprisonment in Count 5 with N10,000 as option of fine."

Man bags life sentence for defiling 10-year-old

Maritha Ebolusue

AN Ikeja Domestic Violence and Sexual Offences Court sitting in Lagos on Wednesday sentenced Friday Imoh, a 43-year-old auto-mechanic to life imprisonment for defiling his 10-year-old neighbour.

Justice Abiola Soladoye sentenced Imoh after finding him guilty.

He was found guilty of two counts of defilement of a child and threatening violence contrary to Sections 137 and 56 of the Criminal Law of Lagos, 2015.

"The prosecution has established beyond reasonable doubt the guilt of the defendant. The conduct of this defendant is

psychologically traumatised.

"Consequently, the defendant having been found guilty as charged is sentenced to life imprisonment in respect to count one: defilement.

"In respect to count two: threatening violence, he is also sentenced to the maximum under the law which is a year imprisonment. Both sentences are to run concurrently," Soladoye said.

The judge did not hear the allocutus (plea for mercy) of the defence counsel, Mrs Jenifer Ekweokporo.

According to the lead state counsel, Mr Olusola Soneye, the defendant committed the offence on January 31, 2019, at Ajegunle, Lagos.

"Imoh sent the underage child

Also, two witnesses, the defendant and his mother, Mrs Matilda Imoh, testified for the defence.

Matilda, in her testimony, claimed that the minor's father had approached her son for a N100,000 loan which was refused.

She alleged that upset over the refusal of the loan, the father of the minor falsely reported her son to the police that he defiled his daughter.

Matilda also claimed that her son was at her home when the alleged crime occurred.

The defendant in his testimony corroborated his mother's claim and denied the allegations.

He told the court that he was not at home when the alleged offences took place but was at his mother's apartment.

Soladoye in her judgment, however, faulted the claims as well as the alibi of the duo.

"The defence of alibi of the defendant cannot fly as it was an afterthought.

"If truly he was at his mother's place on the date of the incident, he would have stated that at the police station not just raising it at the trial stage.

"There is no documentary evidence to prove that the victim's father loaned the defendant N100,000."

Court jails man for impersonation