

Director's murder: Rivers court sentences three to death after 11-year trial

Dennis Naku,
Port Harcourt

A High Court sitting in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, has sentenced three persons to death by hanging for the kidnap and murder of a former director of finance in the Rivers State Ministry of Health, Charles Nwogu.

The three accused persons, Andy Clement, Godfrey Hanson and Chima Nwokoma, faced nine counts of conspiracy and murder.

The presiding judge, Justice Adolphus Enebeli, in his judgement, held that



• Rivers State High Court the three men kidnapped and murdered Nwogu at his

residence in Rumuokoro, in the Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State in 2012.

Justice Enebeli said the prosecution proved the case of conspiracy, kidnapping and murder

brought against the three convicts beyond reasonable doubt.

The judge, however, discharged and acquitted two others, Obinna Okerefo and Ogechi Innocent, of the charges after 11 years of trial.

Enebeli said his hands were tied and he must do what the law demanded.

According to him, the convicts contravened section 1 (1) of the state anti-kidnapping law as well as section 319 of the criminal code, adding that the various laws stipulated hanging by death upon conviction.

The trial judge ruled that the prosecution failed to provide substantial evidence in the information filed against Okerefo and Innocent.

He said the prosecution relied on mere suspicion not backed with credible evidence that could

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prosecute them.

Justice Enebeli further struck out charges brought against the 4th defendant, late Rowland Azuka, who died in the custodial centre during trial.

C.N Nathaniel, the lawyer to one of the convicts, Nwokoma, told newsmen that he would appeal the judgement.

Ondo shoemaker lands

Peter Dada, Akure

A shoemaker, Sikiru Owolabi, has been arrested for allegedly killing a 48-year-old man, Bolanle Adilewa, in the Ijo Mimo area of Akure, the Ondo State capital.

PUNCH Metro gathered that the suspect and the victim had an argument on Tuesday, which degenerated into a fight.

Owolabi was said to have stabbed the victim to death.

er remanded for allegedly mosque, hacking worker

and conduct likely to cause breach of public peace.

the worshippers run helter-skelter for their lives.