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...as court jails two kidnappers 113 years

From Adesoji Oyinlola, Lagos

A High Court sitting at Orerokpe, headquarters of Okpe local government area of Delta state have sentenced a 27 years old university worker, David Wonder Erhirhie to death for committing murder.

The court condemned Erhirhie having found him guilty of the murder of Princess Chinoso Ijezie, an admission seeker in 2009 at Abraka, an offence that is punishable under Section 319 of the Criminal Code Law Cap C. 21 Laws of Delta state, 2006.

While delivering the judgement the court said prosecution was able to prove beyond reasonable doubts ingredients of the offence of murder and sentenced him in accordance to the law. "The punishment for a crime of this magnitude is death penalty. This accused person does not deserve less. I hereby sentence you to death by hanging at the neck until you be dead...", the judge ruled.

It would be recalled that Erhirhie who until the incident was a clerical staff in the Provost Office, Delta State University Abraka was involved in a failed admission racket after collecting the sum of N155, 000 from the deceased to assist her to secure admission into the university.

The convict however could not secure the admission for the deceased but in a bid to cover up the fraud, lured the late Princess Chinoso Ijezie to his house under the pretence that he wanted to refund the said amount; but instead, he murdered and secretly buried her in a shallow grave close to his house before nemesis caught up with him.

In another development, an Asaba High Court on Tuesday sentenced two kidnappers, one David Erutere and Sunday Omamuzo Ukailkwo to a total of 113 years imprisonment with hard labour for the offences of kidnapping and armed robbery.

The court sentenced the duo having found them guilty of the five-count charge of conspiracy to commit a felony to wit, kidnap, kidnapping and conspiracy to commit a felony to wit, armed robbery contrary to section 6 (b) and punishable under section 1 (2) a of the robbery and fire arms (Special Provisions) Act Cap R II Volume 14 Laws of the Federation, 2004.

Prosecution had told the court that David Erutere and Sunday Omamuzo had conspired, kidnapped and robbed Irikefe Edefe and Egwu Johnbull of their valuables including a Pathfinder Jeep, GSM phones, laptop, wedding rings and cash on two different dates in June 2011 at Delta Palace Road, Warri and Ubiaruku respectively and demanded for a ransom of N50 million from their families before they could be released.

The court in its judgement sentenced the first accused person, David Erutere, age 31 and a native of Ekrakra Village of Ethiope East local government of Delta state to 45 years in jail for conspiracy to commit armed robbery and armed robbery while they both got seven years imprisonment each for conspiracy to commit kidnapping, three years imprisonment each for demanding property with menace and another 10 years each for the offence of kidnapping.

The second accused person, Sunday Omamuzo Ukwaiwo who claimed to be a farmer and a native of Olomoro in Isoko South local

government area was slammed with 25 years imprisonment for the same offence of armed robbery.

Omamuzo was arrested by men of the state command of the State Security Service when he fell into the trap set for him at the point of picking up the agreed ransom. He later took the security agents to the house of the second accused person where he too was arrested and later charged to court.

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