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Court frees 3 ex-vigilantes accused of murder

From **Aloysius Attah**, Onitsha

AN Onitsha High Court III in Anambra State, presided by Justice Chudi Nwankwor has discharged and acquitted three former vigilante operatives standing trial for conspiracy and murder of one Ifeanyi Mba on April 22, 2015 at Okpoko community, Onitsha metropolis.

The accused persons discharged and acquitted after two years of their remand in Onitsha prison custody, included Ajuluchi Osulor, Okechukwu Okafor (a.k.a. Omekannaya) and Ifeanyi Ogueri.

In his judgment, Justice Nwankwor stated that the prosecution failed to produce substantial evidence that would convince the court to believe that the defendants actually participated in the murder of the deceased.

Justice Nwankwor noted that the court was tempted to believe the evidence of the fourth defence witness, DW4, Chinedu Agwu. In his evidence during the proceedings, Agwu testified before the court that one of the prosecution witnesses, John Igude was given N30,000 inducement by one Chief Linus Ezenwamma, the caretaker committee chairman of Okpoko Community Association to write a statement to the police incriminating Okechukwu Okafor, the second defendant in the murder of Ifeanyi Mba.

I'm not at war with Okorocho - Madumere