

City Briefs

Four arraigned for kidnapping, murder

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Four persons have been arraigned before an Uyo Magistrates' Court, Akwa Ibom State, for alleged kidnapping and killing Rosemary Friday Jacob.

The accused, Friday Frank Obonoh, Aniétie Donatus Idong aka Tea boy, Ubong Frank Obonoh and Godwin Etim Jumbo, were brought before Idara Moses of Magistrate's Court 9 by the police.

They are facing a two-count charge bordering on murder and kidnapping, according to the charge no MU/269c/2017. **Biu**

The police prosecutor, Mr. Ekpeni Ajah, informed the court that the accused were involved in the kidnapping and murder of Jacob in July 2009 at F-Line, Ewet Housing Estate.

The offenses involving kidnapping and murder, according to the prosecutor, are high profile cases and therefore appealed to the court to reassign the case to the Federal High Court.

The prosecutor also prayed that the accused be remanded in prison custody pending the release of legal advice from the Director of Public Prosecution (DPP).

He said: "The offenses in which the accused persons are charged are such that this

court lacks the jurisdiction to try. Our application is within the law. We relied on Section 315 of the law. We are here today for a remand proceeding."

In her ruling, Moses granted the prayers of the prosecutor and ordered that the accused be remanded in Uyo Prison custody, pending legal advice from the DPP.

The magistrate, however, adjourned the matter till April 27.

The defence counsel, Mr. Aniekan Akpan, who is also the chairman of the Nigeria Bar Association (NBA), Uyo, declined to comment on the matter when approached by the journalists after the court proceeding yesterday.