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**2 to hang for murder - 3 policemen face murder charge**

Yinka Oladoyinbo, Akure - 03.12.2008

AN Ondo State high court has sentenced to death by hanging, two men, Mustafa Tijani and Omoniyi Oladiran, charged with killing their friend, Gbenga Ojo, during a fracas.

Also, another court in the state has sentenced a policeman to seven years imprisonment for killing one Mufutau Alejelowo, a motor dealer in Akure, at a roadblock.

Justice Williams Akintoroye pronounced Tijani and Oladiran guilty of conspiracy and murder contrary to Section 319 (1) cap 30 vol 11 of the Laws of Ondo State 1978.

Although the accused denied the charges, the judge said the presentation established their culpability in the murder of Ojo.

During the trial, the prosecution counsel, Mr. Ife Olorunfemi, said Ojo was killed by the accused during a fracas in a public place in Ondo town.

He was also able to prove that the accused hit the deceased with a heavy object that resulted in his death.

Apart from sentencing the accused to five years imprisonment for conspiracy, Justice Akintoroye held that "pursuant to Section 367(2) of the Criminal Procedure Act, the accused should be hanged in the necks until they are pronounced dead."

In another development, three policemen are to face murder charge over the killing of a banker, Modebayo Awosika, on October 1, 2008 in Lagos.

Awosika, a senior manager with First Bank Plc., was allegedly shot by the policemen in Lekki area of Lagos in the night of October 1, 2008, while on his way home.

Following the public outcry over the incident and alleged plans to cover up the crime, the Inspector General of Police, Mike Okiro, ordered the special investigating unit at the Force Headquarters to take over the case.