

access to a medical facility in Kirikiri Prisons.

conspiracy to obtain money by false pretenses,

case till September 27 and 28 for trial.

OPC man jailed 25 years for manslaughter

By Onozure Dania

LAGOS—AN 'Assistant Vigilante' in O'dua People's Congress, OPC, office, Agege, Lagos, Jelili Falana, was yesterday sentenced to 25 years imprisonment for manslaughter by a Lagos High Court sitting in Igboere.

Justice Sedoten Ogunsanya found Falana guilty of shooting to death a herbal medicine hawker, Afolashade Salami, in 2014.

Ogunsanya, in her judgment, said the sentence was without an option of fine and would take effect from 2016.

The judge held that facts of the case were more consistent with manslaughter than murder, noting that the convict shot Salami and dumped her corpse in a soak away.

The sentence followed Falana's second re-arraignment on December 7, 2016 on a count

amended charge of murder, which contravened Section 221 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2011.

The convict was first arraigned by Lagos State Government on January 11, 2016 and re-arraigned on an amended charge on February 1, 2016.

Falana had earlier pleaded not guilty on the three occasions, following which trial commenced.

The prosecutor, Mr. Adebayo Haroun, had told the court that Falana committed the offence on June 15, 2014 at 10.30p.m. at an OPC Vigilance Office in Agege.

He said the case was reported at the Railway Police Division, Agege, by Mr. Adekunle Adegoke, the OPC Coordinator in the area.

During trial, Haroun tendered the convict's statement before the court and

it was admitted in evidence.

In the statement, Falana admitted that he knew the deceased as a "local nurse" and drug hawker who placed him on malaria medication in the morning of the incident.

Falana's statement stated that the deceased was on her way home, but stopped at the OPC's office to check on him.

The statement also said the victim sat beside Falana, while he fondled the gun, which went off and hit the victim in the head.

Falana said he became confused and afraid, adding that he dumped the victim's body and the gun in the soak away.

A prosecution witness, Inspector Gloria Anumo, had testified that Falana, during interrogation, said he seized the gun from some hoodlums and used it for vigilance work.

Anumo said the convict claimed that he neither has licence nor knew how to operate a gun.