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Nigerian Justice System: the Influential can't escape punishment

June 2, 2023

Tuesday, May 30, 2023: The court presided over by Chief judge of Osun State, **Justice Oyebola Ojo**, found Dr Rahman Adedoyin and three of his staff guilty of murder of **Timothy Adegoke**, a graduate student of **Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU)**, Ile-Ife. The death of the student of MBA occurred between November 5 and 7, 2021, at Hilton Honours Hotel, Ile-Ife.

www.DiGiNews360.com understands that the Justice System in Nigeria should be fast and should be available to the poor. But **Justice Oyebola Ojo** has shown that Nigeria punishes a highly influential person, in case he commits a crime. We applaud her and we congratulate the Justice system and ask the system to continue to improve it.

Adegoke had travelled from Abuja and had booked accommodation for himself at Hilton Hotels and Resorts, Ile-Ife from November 5, 2021, to enable him to arrive early for his examination at the OAU Distance Learning Centre, Moro, Osun State, on November 6 and November 7, 2021.

Timothy Adegoke had died mysteriously at Hilton Hotels, Ile-Ife in 2021.

The owner of the hotel, **Dr. Raheem Adedoyin** with six of his staff Magdalene Chiefuna, Adeniyi Aderogba, Oluwole Lawrence, Oyetunde Kazeem Adebayo Kunle and Adedeji Adesola were standing trial on 18 counts of conspiracy, murder, felony, indecent interference of the corpse. They were also charged with alteration, and cancellation of receipt and oath-taking to conceal evidence and to prevent justice.

The prosecuting counsel, Femi Falana, SAN told the court that the defendants committed the offence as charged. But the defense counsel led by Yusuf Alli, SAN insisted before the court that there is no evidence that his clients murdered Adegoke.

Justice Ojo held that circumstantial evidence that Dr Rahmon Adedoyin with his staff killed Timothy Adegoke, was compelling and has been used for the sentences.

JUDGEMENT: Osun State Chief Judge, Justice Oyebola Ojo has sentenced Dr Rahman Adedoyin, owner of Hilton Hotel, Ile-Ife, Adeniyi Aderogba, Manager of the Hotel and Oyetunde Kazeem, a supervisor at the Hotel, **to death by hanging.**

The hotel's receptionist, Adedeji Adesola, was also found guilty of altering documents to conceal the crime and was sentenced for two years in jail.

The Judge declared Rahman Adedoyin wanted and ordered Interpol **to commence a serious manhunt** for the accused with a view to arresting him in any part of the world he might be hiding.

She further ordered that the vehicle that was used to commit the crime, and the hotel where the said crime was committed, be forfeited to the state government, adding that the children of the deceased should be placed on scholarship on the bill of Adedoyin, Aderogba and Kazeem till they register for their National Youths Service Corps, NYSC scheme.

BACKGROUND of Dr. RAHEEM ADEDOYIN: He is the **proprietor** of **Oduduwa University** located in Ipetumodu, Osun State, Nigeria. He is also the **Chancellor** of the university. The university was licensed by the Federal Government of Nigeria to operate as a private university on November 3, 2009. It is fully licensed by the National Universities Commission, Nigeria.

In an interview with a journalist Rahmon had claimed that the late Oba Okunade Sijuwade had nominated him as the Ooni of Ife before his death because of "his developmental strides, particularly in the cradle of Yoruba land".

The **Ooni of Ile-Ife (Ọ̀ni of Ilẹ̀-Ife)** is the traditional ruler of Ile-Ife and the spiritual head of the Yoruba people.

MEANING of WORDS: Ooni: King, **Ilẹ̀ -House, Ife- Expansion**
