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## Judge 's absence stalls trial of Mali-based Boko Haram suspect

May 8, 2013 Premium Times



Boko Haram leader, Abubakar Shekau

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**The suspect is accused of being a major trainer of Boko Haram members.**

The absence of Justice Gabriel Kolawole of the Federal High Court on Wednesday in Abuja stalled the trial of Mukhtar Ibrahim, an alleged Mali-based Boko Haram member.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) learnt from court officials that the judge had travelled out of Abuja on an official duty.

However, another court official told those who came for the case that the matter had been adjourned till June 10 for more prosecution witnesses to be invited to give evidence.

Mr. Kolawole had earlier fixed May 8 and May 9 for the prosecution to bring in three of its star witnesses to give evidence.

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A witness, Isaac Yahaya, of the [National Intelligence Agency](#) (NIA), had said that the accused person was arrested at the Mali-Niger Republic border on December 2, 2011.

He said Mr. Ibrahim was later handed over to the Nigerian authorities in Konne-Illela, Sokoto State, on December 7, 2011.

The 23-year-old accused person is standing trial on terrorism charges.

The prosecution had submitted that the accused person was an active member of the Boko Haram.

It had further alleged that Mr. Ibrahim specialised in training other Boko Haram members in places outside the country.

According to the prosecution, Mr. Ibrahim, who operates between Nigeria and Niger Republic, also deals in the importation of explosive materials and other related arms.

NAN reports that the accused person is liable to a life sentence if found guilty as charged.

(NAN)



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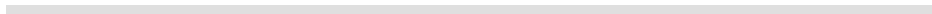
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