**PRESS RELEASE**

**Court of Appeal Affirms Judgment of Jigawa State High Court which sentences armed robbers to 31 years imprisonment**

The Court of Appeal of Nigeria sitting in Kano presided over by Hon Justice (Dr) Hussein Mukhtar has today being Wednesday 2nd June, 2021, affirmed the conviction and sentence of two Appellants – Surajo Yunusa and Rabi’u Idris in appeals number: CA/KN/145/2019 and CA/KN/296B/2019 (sentenced to 31 calendar years by the Jigawa State High Court sitting at Gumel. The sentence was earlier handed down on four men (two of the convicts, appealled against the judgement) by Hon Justice Muhammad Abubakar Sambo on for the offences of criminal conspiracy and armed robbery punishable under Section 97(1) of the Penal Code, Cap. P3 Laws of Jigawa State, 2012 and Section 1(2)(a) & (b) of the Robbery and Firearms (special provision) Act, Cap. R11, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004. The Convicts were found to have conspired and robbed a household at Kwalam Village, Taura LGA where they robbed them of the sum of Three Hundred Thousand Naira (N300,000.00) Cash, two small radios and two handsets

During the trial at the lower court, the Appellants and two others pleaded not guilty to the offences charged consequent upon which the Respondent (represented by the State Ministry of Justice) called two witnesses and tendered three exhibits. At the close of the Respondent’s case, the Appellant and two others opened their case and called nine (9) witnesses all in a bid to exculpate themselves of the offences charged.

The Appellate court in a considered online judgment delivered virtually via Google Meet by three Justices of the Court of Appeal presided by Hon. Justice (Dr) Hussein Mukhtar has found and held that the Respondent led by Hon. Attorney-General Jigawa State, Dr Musa Adamu Aliyu, had established the ingredients of the two offences and that the appellants have failed to show why the decision of the lower court was perverse. The appeal therefore lacks merit. The appellate court therefore affirmed the conviction and sentence of the High Court which sentenced the convicts to 21 calendar years imprisonment for the offence of armed robbery and 10 calendar years imprisonment for the offence of criminal conspiracy.

Justices that concurred with Hon Justice (Dr) Hussein Mukhtar, PJCA (read the lead judgment), Habeeb Adewale Olumuyiwa Abiru and Abubakar Mu’azu Lamido, JJCA

Signed

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3rd June, 2021