

City Beats

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Kwara monarch dies in bandits' captivity



• *I am not aware, says CP*

The traditional ruler of Olayinka community in Ifelodun Local Government Area of **Kwara State**, Oba Salman Aweda, has died in the den of terrorists.

The monarch was abducted from his palace by terrorists on April 17, this year.

Oba Aweda was said to have died after paying N18 million ransom, out of the N21 million demanded.

Though the Police Commissioner Ojo Adekimi could not confirm the monarch's death, sources said his death was announced in a voice message obtained from a member of a community committee that had been involved in efforts to secure his freedom.

"Nobody told me the news of the death of the monarch," the CP said, describing it as a mere rumour.

Secretary, Ifelodun Traditional Council, Chief Omisola Amos Olayinka, confirmed the news.

He said the community had received internal confirmation of the monarch's death after initial disbelief.

"Initially, we thought it was a rumour. But now the community confirmed it today... those that we put in charge of farm duty of the community put it on our platform that the monarch is dead, has passed away."

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He explained that efforts were made to secure the monarch's release, including the payment of ransom and provision of additional demands reportedly made by the kidnappers.

"We paid a huge sum of money, including motorcycles and fuel, as demanded by them, yet the man still died in their custody. We are in a mourning mood now," he said.

The secretary further lamented the inability of the community to locate the monarch's remains, noting the uncertainty surrounding where he was taken after his abduction.

Asked if the community had received the body, Olayinka said: "No, no, no, we haven't. And where do you trace the body when you don't even know where the man was taken to? How do you trace it? At least not yet."

He added: "The community is in a very sad mood now, this is a man that was just given a first class status and we have not even done the ceremony, yet the man is dead. There is nothing we can do but we pray that such things don't happen again," he submitted.

It was also gathered that the community had bought two brand new motorcycles and provided 100 litres of petrol demanded by the kidnappers, yet he was not released.

It was learnt that when community people sought to speak with the monarch, the terrorists demanded additional money, at which point they suspected that he had died while in their den.

In the audio, the committee member informed residents that multiple interventions by family members, community leaders, clerics and concerned stakeholders had failed to bring the monarch home alive.