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## Nigeria: Police Arrest 15 Over Ikire Mayhem

**Daily Champion (Lagos)****24 October 2007**

Posted to the web 24 October 2007

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Abiodun Felix  
Osogbo

The police in Osun State yesterday confirmed that 15 persons have been arrested in connection with Monday's mayhem that rocked Ikire, headquarters of Irewole Local Government area of Osun State where Four persons were brutally killed by some protesting youths.

Also torched during the mayhem was the multimillion naira palace of Akire of Ikireland, Oba Olatunde Falabi and twelve vehicles parked in the palace.

Confirming the arrest, Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Joshua Olayemi said the suspects were being quizzed in connection with the mayhem.

He added that the police is on the trail of other fleeing suspects with a bid to bringing them to book.

However, when Daily Champion visited Ikire yesterday there was palpable fear on the faces of residents of the town following rumours that there could be reprisal attack by some relatives of those killed during the protest.

It was gathered that two of those killed during the protest were hacked down within the premises of the palace where they had fled to in a bid to escape jungle justice from the irate youths.

The victims who were alleged to have been identified as suspected ritualists in the town, were said to have fled to the palace when they were apprehended by the youths who accused them of being the brain behind upsurge of ritual killings in the town.

Although the royal father of the town was said to been away as at the time of the incident, it was learnt that the refusal of some inhabitants of the palace to release the suspects infuriated the youths who spontaneously set the palace ablaze.

Commenting on the incident, chairman of the council, Alhaji Taliat Akinwunmi explained that what happened was purely traditional and commended the quick intervention of the police and fire brigades from Osun and Oyo states for their prompt answer to the call of the council.

He pointed out that the quick intervention of the police and state government assisted a lot to reduce the number of casualties and property destroyed.

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