



Police warn LGs against extra judicial killings in Sokoto

From Abubakar Auwal, Sokoto

The Sokoto State Police Commissioner, Alhaji Salisu Fagge, has warned chairmen of local government areas in the state against encouraging extra-judicial killings in their domains.

He spoke against the background of the recent killing of a man in Sabon Birni LG for allegedly stealing two measures of beans and another two suspected thieves at Isa LG by vigilante groups.

The commissioner who gave the warning at a stakeholders' meeting yesterday, described the killings as barbaric.

He said the unlawful arrests, detention and killing of suspects by vigilante groups amounted to human right abuses, urging the groups to always respect the right of suspects as enshrined in the constitution.

"The recent happenings in Zamfara State where members of vigilante groups take the law into their hands by openly prosecuting mere suspects, killing and burning them, raiding villages and hamlets, has started creeping into some local governments in Sokoto. Isa, Sabon Birni and Rabah have all experienced this brutal jungle injustice," he said.

He gave some instances whereby members of the groups allegedly arrested and detained children of wealthy people, only to release them after collecting money from their parents. This he said is abduction.

Fagge said henceforth, they should not go for any operation without the presence of the police and their members should be persons of integrity with no criminal record.

However, the chairman of Isa LGA, Alhaji Umaru Muhammed, said they resorted to vigilante operation because the police could not protect them and their property.

He said the LGA had before the creation of Yan Sakai (vigilante) been a safe haven for armed robbers who attacked people in the area freely.

The chairman, Sabon Birni LGA, Alhaji Idris Gobir, said they need reinforcement of the police in the area, just as he urged the Department of State Security to intensify surveillance to fish out those in possession of illegal weapons.

The state Director of SSS, Alhaji Abubakar Bubuchi, urged vigilante group to always abide by the guidelines governing their operations, saying they should not allow what is happening in their neighbouring state to spread to their areas.

The state commander of the vigilante groups while assuring the police and other security agencies of their support and cooperation, said the perpetrators of the killings at Isa and Sabon Birni were not his men.

...Order criminals to surrender arms in Kwara

From Abdullateef Aliyu, Ilorin

The Kwara State Police Command yesterday warned trouble makers and thugs to surrender their arms and ammunitions to avoid arrest and prosecution, saying no one caught with arms or dangerous weapons would escape the law.

It would be recalled that the combined team of security agencies in the state had launched an operation to rid the state of thugs and hooligans after the recent attack by hoodlums. Over 200 suspects were arrested in the operation which is still in progress.

Daily Trust learnt that the operation has continued despite the arrests made in an effort to nab the ring leader of last month's attack on some operatives of the Nigeria Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA).

Speaking on a live radio interview monitored by our correspondent in Ilorin, the police spokesman flayed criticisms trailing the operation to rid the state of criminals.

Members of the public have accused the security agencies of arresting innocent people.

However, the PPRO denied the allegations, saying those found innocent were being released after thorough screening. According to him, members of the public should be patient and allow the police to carry out their assignment.

He said the joint operation had succeeded in restoring normalcy to the areas and other parts of Ilorin which usually complained of activities of hoodlums.

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Media & Publicity A Presidential Campa said.

He said he did not belong to any camp and was willing to work with any leader of the National Assembly irrespective of what part of the country he or she originates from.

He said the media speculations were probably based on the way things had happened in the past but reminded Nigerians that "CHANGE had to come."

General Buhari added that the media and the public should begin to get used to no more "business as usual."

"Nigeria indeed entered a new dispensation," he said. "The administration does not intend to repeat the same mistakes made by previous governments."

Members of the president-elect's party have become embroiled

