

Fire Razes Deposed Monarch's Residence, Four Killed

From **Niyi Bello**, Akure

THREE members of the family of deposed Olugbo of Ugbo-Ilaje, Prince Adebanjo Mafimisebi, comprising his wife and three daughters on Friday lost their lives in an early morning inferno, which gutted their Oba-Ile, Akure residence.

The names of the four victims were given as Ayodele Mafimisebi and her three

daughters; Folake (14), Adekemi (12) and Seun (8).

The tragic incident, which occurred at midnight and defied intervention from confused neighbors, prompted suggestions that it might have been caused by saboteurs connected to the long-drawn crisis on the Olugbo chieftaincy.

A daughter of the former Olugbo, Adetutu, who escaped the inferno because

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she went to a Christian vigil, alleged that the residence was bombed by unidentified men.

Younger brother of the deposed monarch, Barrister Idowu Mafimisebi, said the incident is not unconnected to the crisis over the Olugbo stool. According to him, "they struck simply because another case is coming up at the

Appeal Court on Monday, February 14, and they thought that my brother would be in Akure, in preparation for the case since all the legal documents and other traditional staff of office are here in the building."

The incumbent Olugbo, Oba Fredrick Obateru Akinruntan, who said he received the news of the incident with rude shock, described Mafimisebi's allegation as baseless.