

## Ondo Monarch Beaten To Coma Over Land Dispute

• Houses Destroyed, Govt Imposes 24-hour Curfew

From Oluwaseun Akingboye, Akure

FOR the umpteenth time, violence flared up in Isinigbo in Ondo State on Thursday night, leading to the burning over 100 houses and death of two persons.

The Guardian gathered that the palace of the Asinigbo of Isinigbo, Oba Samuel Fadahunsi, was attacked and the monarch beaten to coma by the thugs who attack the community at night, but he was reported to have managed to escape through the fence.

Following the violence, Governor Rotimi Akeredolu has declared a 24-hour curfew on Isinigbo and Ode communities in Akure North Council of the state due to incessant attacks over land dispute.

This was contained in a statement made available to journalists in Akure, yesterday, by the Commissioner for Information and Orientation, Mr. Donald Ojogo, to curtail the communal clashes between the neighbouring communities.

Shedding more light on the crisis, the traditional ruler of Ode community, Oba Sunday Boboye, recounted: "You will recall that they had destroyed my palace last week. We relocated to a new palace after normalcy returned, only for the hoodlums to invade the new palace on Monday night.

"I had to scale the fence of the palace with my two Oloris and members of my family. I am left with the only cloth on me. They have burnt all my properties, including my vehicle, which was purchased three months ago.

"This is the fifth time I will be attacked since the land dispute started after the court judgment favoured me."

He explained: "I got the court judgment in 2017 and started its execution last year and the people of Isinigbo have not appealed the judgment to date.

"I have petitioned the state government and security agencies, yet these hoodlums keep attacking me in the palace. I want the government to save my life and that of my family members."

The monarch said both communities agreed at a peace meeting held recently that owners of developed land within Isinigbo land, which falls within the layout, shall pay N100, 000 to the Sao Family of Igoba community in acknowledgement of their entitlement to the land, while owners of undeveloped land within the layout would also pay N150, 000 to Sao family of Igoba community in acknowledgement of their entitlement to the adjudged land.