

Man kidnapped 24 hours after woman was abducted, killed in Oyo

Residents lament cultists' clashes, killings in Lagos

From Rotimi Aghobaje (Ibadan)
and Kudrat Ademola (Lagos)

AMAN, Monsuru Aderoju, has been kidnapped in Igarapa area of Ibarapa a day after Mrs Sherifat Adisa, owner of Subawah Petroleum in the area, was gruesomely murdered after she was abducted by yet-to-be identified gunmen.

Oladokun Oladiran, convener of an advocacy group named Igarapa Development Advocates, confirmed the latest incident to journalists yesterday.

Aderoju, a cassava dealer popularly known as Albaji Monsuru, was trailed to his home at Oke-Aghede, Igarapa, where he was kidnapped on Monday evening.

Recall that Igarapa Development Advocates, late last year, protested against what it described as wanton killings and destruction of properties in Ibarapaland by suspected Fulani bandits, calling on the governor, Seyi Makinde, to act fast before the situation degenerates.

Convener of the group, Oladiran, said: "After Albaji Monsuru finished his 8p.m. prayer, he decided to go

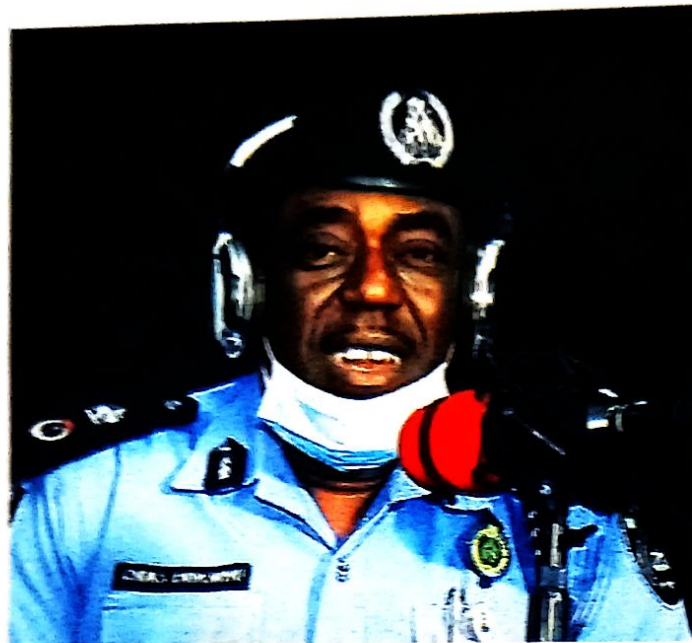
home. According to what we gathered, two of the kidnapers attended the same prayer session with the victim. Though their strange faces generated some suspicion, they were not seen as a threat until they trailed the victim home and carried out their evil act."

Oladiran further lamented that after the protest by his group, more farms in Igarapa had been plundered, including his personal leased farm by suspected Fulani bandits.

The Oyo State Police Command, through its Public Relations Officer, Mr Oluhenga Fadeyi, confirmed the incident, saying the police were intensifying efforts to rescue the victim.

MEANWHILE, at least two persons were feared killed on Sunday night in a clash between two rival cults, *Aye and Eye confraternities*, in the *Igbogbo-Bayeku area of Ikorodu, Lagos State*.

It was gathered that the fight broke out around 7:00p.m. after one of the rival groups stormed the community bus stop, where members of the other group were having a party. The fight



Oyo State Police Commissioner, Nwachukwu Enwornwu

led to the shooting of a member of one of the groups, which led to a reprisal.

According to eyewitnesses, one of the groups went away with the body of their member, while the other body was lying in front of the Community Secondary School.

A source said residents had fled the area as a result of the clash. "There is apprehension at Macaulay and Community down to Ilado. We call on the police to come to our rescue because residents

are living in fear."

This is just as residents of Mile 12 have also lamented that their lives are being threatened due to the activities of cult members in the area.

According to one Mrs Toyibat, residents spent the yuletide period in fear at Mile 12 due to killings and reprisals going on unchallenged in the area by rival cult groups.

She said the killings escalated recently because a cult leader was murdered by a rival gang. "Since the Aye



Lagos State Police Commissioner, Hakeem Odumosu

group killed the head of the *Aloru Boys*, the gang members have gone on the rampage to avenge their leader's death. We can't even sleep peacefully in Mile 12 because they are still 'counting scores.' Even children can't play around the neighbourhood, as everyone is scared of what is happening in the environment."

The residents said the police were incapacitated to arrest the situation since some of the stations around the area were burnt during the #End-

SARS violence, and are yet to be refurbished and police are not responding to distress calls.

When contacted, the state Police Public Relations Officer, Oluwayemi Adejobi, said he would get back to our correspondent, but he did not as of the time of filing this report. "We have asked the DPO to go and find out what is happening there and get back to us. I am waiting for the DPO's response. When he gets back to us, I will make a statement on it."