

# Two Killed in Ogun Land Dispute

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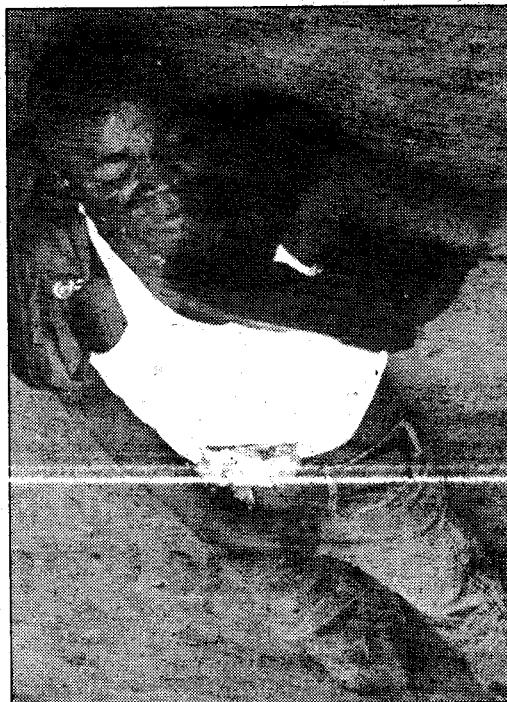
Cases of killings from disputes over land ownership continue unabated following a reported murder of two assistant surveyors who were reported to have been macheted to death penultimate Thursday in the Ewu-Oloye Ita Sanni Ogijo in Sagamu Local Government Area of Ogun State by people suspected to have been hired by land speculators laying claims to vast hectares of land.

According to a petition addressed to the Inspector General of Police dated 2nd August 2007 by a law firm, Adekunle Sulaiman & Co, on behalf of the Alashe family of Ewu Oloye Village in Sagamu Local Government Area, it explained that sometimes in 2005, one Ramoni Akinade, a notorious and dangerous land speculator came to Ewu Oloye Village with several thugs and invaded the community where several residents including its client were wounded and one of them later died in the hospital.

The petition stated that though the incident was reported at Sagamu Police Station, nothing serious was done concerning the matter, a development that prompted the family to file a suit at the state high court sitting in Sagamu.

In the originating summons, the applicants represented by Pa Joshua Ajose for himself and on behalf of Oshibajo Alashe Family of Ewu Alashe, Ita Sanni, Labori, Ogijo, Sagamu prayed the court for an order allowing them to survey their land in full without any molestation or disturbance from the defendants including Ramoni alias Raymond; and an order of injunction restraining the defendants including the fourth defendant from disturbing them from the use and enjoyment of their land. The defendants in the suit with number HCS/59/06 include: Deboye Jayesinmi, Toyin Gbeke Adekoya, Jimoh Papa and Raymond Raimi.

The court presided over by Justice N. I.

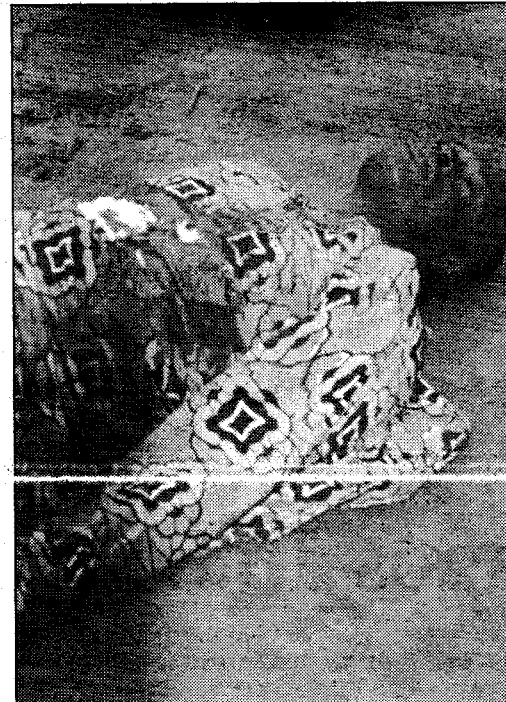


•Bodies of the land dispute victims

Saula in its 6th June 2006 ruling granted the applicants leave "To go to the disputed land with his surveyors for the purpose of preparing dispute survey plan of same".

However, according to the family, they were in the process of carrying out the court order penultimate Thursday after failed attempts in the past that they were again attacked by about eight heavily armed men led by one Alhaji Ramoni Akinbade and Sanya Shobajo. The armed men allegedly shot into the midst of both surveyor and the family members as they were inspecting the land with a view to starting work on it, leaving two assistant surveyors dead and several others wounded.

The family gave the names of the dead surveyors as Idowu Adejumo and Wale Omole. It stated that two other assistant surveyors by name Matthew Ogun and Taiwo Orija were still missing as at the time.



of writing the petition.

Speaking on the issue, the surveyor under whose service the dead men were working before they met their untimely death, Chief Bankole told our correspondent that the incident took place at about 6pm after he left the site.

"All I know about this incident is that I was on site on the day in question where about ten of my boys were working. Before that day we had apply for police protection to facilitate our carrying out the court ruling, and that request was approved by the police authority in Ogun State. The police men sent to us closed from work at about 5pm and I left the site almost immediately after having paid my workers some stipends to take them to their various destinations.

"I was yet to arrive home when I received a call that some hoodlums have invaded the

site with the intention of killing my workers. I quickly took a detour and on getting to the site what confronted me were bodies of my workers, brutally murdered. I never expected this. I can only call on law enforcement agents to ensure that those who did this are made to face the full weight of the law," Chief Bankole said amidst tears.

In a related development, the Alashe family has also raised concerns about an alleged attempt to cover up the matter and make it out to the public as one of the numerous cases of pipeline vandalism.

The three page petition pointed out that the main culprit in the dastardly act has connived with some officials of the Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) to paint a picture that the dead men were attacked while trying to vandalize the corporation's pipeline in Mosinmi.

"Sanya Shobajo has now mischievously got into collusion with some NNPC officials at Mosinmi. He has thus been admitted into the NNPC clinic at Mosinmi on a false claim that some people fought him and wounded him near NNPC pipeline while defending the pipeline in order to avoid the consequence of his criminal act.

"It is disheartening that Ramoni who has been terrorizing different villages like Shedun via Ogijo, Ewu-Elepe, who is still a wanted person for the offence of murder committed at Igbogbo area of Ikorodu could still go about free and commit other murders at other places of his choice without fear of apprehension", the petition copied to different police formations in the state and federation read.

Efforts to speak with Shobajo proved abortive. He was reported to be recuperating from an attack in an unnamed hospital. Ramoni on his part could not be reached on his mobile phones.

Sources from Sagamu police station confirmed that the disputed land has been a major source of crisis in the area while noting that the police have swung into action on the matter with a view to find lasting solution to the problem.