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Eight Prisoners Killed In Ibadan Jail Break Attempt • Two Die As Hoodlums Attack Alao-Akala's Convoy

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Ten people died in separate incidents on Tuesday in Ibadan, an old city in the grip of a civil servants' strike amid claims by Oyo Governor, Adebayo Alao-Akala, that the inhabitants conspire against him because he is from Ogbomoso.

First, mayhem broke out in the morning as inmates at the Federal Prison, Agodi, Ibadan, attempted a jail break, which led to a clash between them and security agents, who shot eight of them dead in a bid to foil the plot hatched by knife-wielding men.

Later in the day, police shot and killed two of the social miscreants who attacked Alao-Akala's convoy in Bodija.

Fourteen of the inmates received injuries while unleashing anger at prison officials whom they alleged were responsible for the death of one inmate who took ill at the weekend, a claim denied by state Prison Comptroller, Maureen Omeili.

She said the inmate who was in bad health is alive.

Four prison officials were wounded by stray bullets.

Splatters of blood dotted various spots in the prison yard; with store items, including cooking utensils, and raw food scattered all over.

The prison is over crowded, housing 680 inmates instead of the 500 it was built for.

The inmates, particularly those in the Awaiting Trial Male Ward, mobilised their counterparts in the E Ward close to the Clinic to lead the insurgency.

In the other incident, Alao-Akala had gone out to commission the reconstructed Bodija-Iso-Pako Road at the popular Bodija market, as part of activities marking his 100 days in office.

As his car was about to drive off after the ceremony, thugs who carried a big banner with the photograph of Lamidi Adedibu approached the vehicle and requested money from him.

He did not budge. The hoodlums began throwing stones at his convoy.

Up to six vehicles, including a press crew bus, and a Toyota Corolla car (marked ABUJA XC 623 ABJ) conveying staff of *Africa Independent Television* (AIT), were attacked.

The assailants threw stones and other dangerous objects at the vehicles, and wounded some people on the entourage, including a reporter who works for *Daily Independent*.

He and others in the press crew bus were hit with stones. The glass of the car conveying AIT

employees was shattered.

Only the intervention of Alao-Akala's police security prevented his vehicle from being vandalised.

Policemen shot at close range at the hoodlums. Two of them died. Others ran off in different directions, with some injured.

The social misfits had reportedly been mobilised by Ibadan North Council Chairman as part of the reception party for Alao-Akala. He promised to pay them, but failed to deliver.

The attack came as striking civil servants vowed not to back down until Alao-Akala pays the N9,400 minimum wage across the board.

State Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) Chairman, Lamidi Basiru Apapa, stated in Ibadan on Tuesday that the workers have resolved to follow the struggle to a logical end.

Alao-Akala countered at the commissioning that he has proved wrong his political enemies who taught he would not be able to deliver the dividends of democracy to the people.

His words: "They wanted to destabilise my government, but I have surprised them. They did not know that this government was ordained by God Himself. They are using the state workers to fight me.

"I am not fighting the workers, They are the ones fighting me. I have never heard of anywhere where a servant fights with his master. Don't let them deceive you. I am not saying I will not pay their salaries.

"What we are saying is that what they are demanding is too much. Civil servants are not as many as non-civil servants in the state. If we use all the state money to pay only their salaries, how would the dividends of democracy get to others?

"The strike has not affected our administration, as we have continued to run the government. I just want to tell the workers that their salaries are ready. Ramadan fasting is coming, they should come and collect their pay".