

# \* Police Arrest Two Over Murder During Peace Meeting In Lagos

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**T**he Police in Lagos State said they have arrested two suspects and began full scale investigations into the circumstances surrounding the killing of two people during a peace meeting between two families. DAILY INDEPENDENT gathered the two families were from Amuwo Odofin and Isheri Oshun communities in Lagos State.

The image maker in charge of the state Police Command, Bala Elkana, who confirmed the incident added that two people have been arrested in connection with the attack.

He said operatives were on the trail of other perpetrators of the act.

The deceased persons were identified as Oluwoyo Debo and Daniel Chibuzor. Five others, including a surveyor and a policeman, were injured by a gang of hoodlums who were allegedly assisted by a team of soldiers and gun-wielding policemen.

The head of the Kuje Amuwo Royal Family, Chief Ligali Suabu Hassan, while narrating the sad incident said, "For quite some time now, we have been having issues with the Fagbile family in Isheri Oshun over boundary issues on our land but we have never experienced anything like what happened last week."

"We have our surveyor and they have their surveyor too but they hired an agent, Alhaji Alado, to be selling the land for them. The two families met and we agreed to invite a neutral surveyor who has a vast knowledge of the boundaries of all the communities in Amuwo-Odofin, Isheri Oshun and other parts.

"To our surprise, there were hundreds of hoodlums there too and before our peo-



The slain victims

ple could think of what to do, the hoodlums descended on them and began to use different weapons on them, not sparing the policeman who accompanied our surveyor to the site."

He urged the Inspector General of Police to order a thorough investigation into the attack.

"Our lives are in danger. These people now use soldiers and policemen to attack and kill us. We have written petitions to the IG and other police formations in the past but it appears that these people are bigger than the law of the land. Our people should not be allowed to die in vain," he said.

Alhaji Monsuru Akande,

a member of the family, who narrowly escaped death during the attack said, "Despite the fact that I told them that I had come to buy land, they kept attacking me with charms and machetes. There were over 200 hoodlums and there were soldiers and policemen around, who were watching them unleashing mayhem on us."

Akande said, "We had gone there in two vehicles and were expecting policemen from FESTAC Town to join us, after we had written a letter to them. We were waiting for the policemen when some hoodlums approached our vehicles and ordered us to come down. I told the driver to wind up all

the glasses in the vehicle but they showed us guns, which were carefully tucked under their shirts."

Counsel to the Kuje Amuwo family, Bayo Omoniyi in a letter to the Inspector General of Police, dated March 19, 2020 demanded for "justice and immediate response" from the police, noting that the family had in the past raised the alarm and that nothing was done till the hoodlums went on rampage.

Omoniyi said, "We recalled that we had of recent cried out over the menace of armed bandits' attacks which had become a recurring decimal in the area and sought for the deployment of armed personnel to ensure safety of lives and property in the area in respect of which your office has graciously approved the deployment of mobile policemen to secure the area.

"However, in order for peace to reign, the two families jointly contributed and employed a surveyor to survey the land and verge out the area of trespass, if any, which was done, over a year ago. Parties have since then been unable to meet on the land to physically map out the boundaries.

"The principal actors that were easily identifiable having regard to their previous familiarity with our clients are Begun Echo, Ayo Faki, Ikechukwu, Monsuru Keshinro Olori Squad, Leke and Akinde."

CPElkana, however, said, "There was an attack on some people but the police at FESTAC division were only contacted, when there was an issue and they quickly deployed officers to the scene.

"Two injured persons were rescued and were rushed to the hospital by the police. One of them died that day and the other died later. Two persons have been arrested in connection with the attack and investigations are ongoing."