



**TRLP
LAW**

INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL LAWYERS & ARBITRATORS

22ND FEBRUARY 2010

MR OGBONNA ONOVO
INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF POLICE
FORCE HEADQUARTERS
LOUIS EDETH HOUSE
GARKI, ABUJA

Dear Sir,

RE: KILLINGS AND THREAT TO LIVES IN OGUN STATE WITH ARMS STOLEN FROM POLICE ARMOURY IN ABEOKUTA

WE write on behalf of Mr Busari Mukaila, a trader resident at 57 Ashigidi Road, Oke Agbe Ijebu Igbo and Mr. Gbenga Oriade, a timber contractor resident at 21 Odomoro Street, Oke-Agbe, Ijebu Igbo in Ogun State.

Our clients are currently living in fear of their lives because of certain recent events which reveal that certain persons have unleashed a renewed reign of terror upon the hapless Ijebu North LGA indigenes perceived to belong to OMOILU group of the Peoples Democratic Party with a view to their total extermination.

The following are some of the recent happenings in that Local Government and Ogun State in General which we are instructed to bring to your attention along with a request for your immediate intervention to bring those criminally culpable to justice and prevent a complete breakdown of law and order in Ijebu North Local Government and Ogun State.

RAIDING OF OGUN POLICE COMMAND ARMOURY BY OGD FORUM WITH CONNIVANCE OF OFFICERS OF THE COMMAND:

It is our information that some of the new guns that were purchased for the Nigeria Police force in 2008/2009 and kept at the Police Armoury in Abeokuta have been removed and used for arming a gang of political thugs for the purpose of killing, intimidating and threatening the perceived political opponents of Governor Gbenga Daniel in Ogun State, particularly in Ijebu North Local Government.

The guns removed and delivered to this gang consists of 8/9 units of brand new AK47 rifles which became missing from the armoury under the watch of the Officer in Charge of Operations in the armoury, one Mr. Kokumo. These guns have now come into use and mentioned in several recent incidents in the State including the following:

RECRUITING OF MILITANTS FOR THE OGD FORUM:

Recently our client Mr. Gbenga Goriade, an influential member of the Peoples Democratic Party in Ijebu North Local Government and one of the leaders of the Local vigilante and OPC was invited with some members of his vigilante group to a meeting at the office of Mr. Wale Oshiyemi at the local Government Headquarters which meeting also had Segun Seriki and Mr. Niyi Arje in attendance.

The purpose of the meeting was to persuade our client and his associates to denounce the OMOILU group and join forces with the OGD FORUM. According to our client he and his associates, Mr Tajudeen Ambali, Ibrahim Oriade and Nojem Bakare were brought under intense pressure at the meeting to renounce their membership of OMOILU. In his briefing to us Mr Goriade stated as follows:

"At the meeting, we were threatened for being members of OMOILU group. We were told to realise that the Governor, Otumba Gbenga Daniel is the Chief Security Officer of Ogun State and if he orders that we should be killed we will just die for nothing and nobody will do anything about it. We were therefore advised to rescind our membership of the OMOILU group and join the OGD FORUM group so that the government can take care of us and arm us properly for our security job and other assignments the Governor may want us to do for him promising that instead of the local guns we used for our security work he would arm us with new AK47 rifles which they had obtained from the Police armoury in Abeokuta Mr Wale Oshiyemi and Niyi Arje appealed to us to leave OMOILU and join OGD and assured us that we would have the support of the Ogun State Police Command and access to better arms and ammunition with OGD. They also promised us money".

His signed statement is attached hereto as ANNEXURE GGS.

Similarly our client Mr. Busari Mukaila who is the Chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party in Ward 5 Oke Agbe, Ijebu Igbo in Ijebu North LGA Ogun State learned of the assignment of the stolen AK47 rifles during a meeting at the Governor's house in Sagamu in October 2009.

He had been invited along with the other 10 ward chairmen in Ijebu North to that meeting by the Chairman of the party in Ijebu North LGA. Segun Seriki was in attendance at that meeting. According to our client's signed statement (copy attached hereto as ANNEXURE BMS) *"in the presence of the Governor we were warned to leave OMOILU and return the cars we ward chairmen had been given by OMOILU and to renew our oath of allegiance to the governor or else we could lose our lives After the meeting called me aside and told me that he is my friend and wants me to know that they are fully armed by the Governor with brand new AK47 rifles which they had obtained from the State Police Command armoury in Abeokuta and he didn't want me to waste my life"*

THE FORESTRY KILLINGS:

In the course of the meeting in December 2009 between our client, Mr. Gbenga Goriade, his associates, Wale Oshiyemi, Niyi Arje and Segun Seriki, one Chief Yinka Odeseaye, the Special Adviser to the governor of Ogun State on Forestry and Agriculture, who was also in attendance informed our client and his associates that he, Chief Odeseaye, had advised the Governor to appoint our client and his group as official vigilante to secure the Ogun State forest reserve and help government with enforcement of the collection of Government revenue and that the appointment would justify the assignment of AK47 rifles to our client and his three associates once they agreed to leave OMOILU and join OGD.

Subsequently in January 2010, as promised and even before our clients had responded to the demand that they leave OMOILU, a letter dated 7th January 2010 from the Ogun State Ministry of Forestry, Regulation and Utilisation Department signed by one O. A. Adekoya for the Permanent Secretary was delivered to our client. That letter set out the names of 53 persons including our client and some of his associates in the local vigilante and OPC were set up as one of the *"vigilante groups to assist the Ministry of Forestry Officials in the enforcement of the payment of the necessary tariffs on all items concerned"*. (A copy of that letter is attached hereto as ANNEXURE GGS2.)

Our client was no 2 on the list and named as "leader". After a briefing by officials of the ministry and began the work which involved "patrolling the reserve in the company of ministry officials in search of persons attempting to smuggle produce out of Ogun State territory without paying necessary tariffs, seizing such produce and depositing them at the Ministry of Forestry's

premises at J4 in Ijebu North East.

Between January 7th and 29th 2010 the vigilante group made two such patrols and on each occasion caught some defaulters from whom they seized some goods which were delivered at J4 as instructed.

The second of the patrols was on 24th January 2010 and the smugglers who were armed with guns and attempting to smuggle cocoa resisted our client's vigilante group. The cocoa and the arms were seized and delivered to J4 yard of the Ministry of Forestry. However by this time it had become clear to the OGD FORUM that our client had not left the OMOILU and they decided to deal with him. He was accused of stealing the produce and arms from the smugglers who were apprehended on the 24th of January 2010. He was arrested on the 29th of January by officers of the State Police Command, detained until the 5th of February and released only after the intervention of community leaders.

Meanwhile his vigilante group set up by the ministry was invited to patrol the forestry reserve on the 16th of February. Our client refused to participate and advised his associates not to go on the patrol. Unfortunately many of them were lured by the promise of payment by the Government and went on the patrol on the 16th of February 2010. It was a massacre planned. Somebody had gone to a village in the forestry reserve called Laagan with one Politician and four Mobile Police Officers on the 14th of February 2010 unknown to the vigilante group.

The vigilante group discovered the purpose of that visit as an armed gang ambushed it at Laagan village on The 16th of February 2010. Four members of that group were instantly killed. Many are still missing till now who were captured alive. Some escaped death and came back severely injured. One of those captured but left for dead after being made to drink some poisonous/acidic substance returned to Ijebu Igbo but has not been able to speak and lay sick to the point of death in his family house in Ijebu Igbo at the time Our client left for Lagos to brief us. Segun Seriki and his gang have been going around the homes of the dead threatening the families with more mayhem if they did not quietly bury their dead. Many have complied. Our Client believes this was to show him the superiority of the AK47 guns over the local Dane guns ~~he and his associates used.~~ (Some photographs taken by our client of some of those still lying sick from their gun shot wounds and the poisoned one are attached hereto as ANNEXURES GGS 3 & 6.)

The community is currently restive and violent protests by the community against these killings may yet erupt unless the police are seen to be taking charge.

INFILTRATION OF NURTW IN OGUN STATE:

The OGD FORUM had successfully infiltrated the National Union of Road Transport Workers in Ogun State and using violence and monetary inducement had installed a leadership of the NURTW in Ogun State after its own image. However constant violent disagreements continue to ensue amongst the membership in Ogun State as the majority of the members of that Union seek to be free of the oppressive and politically partisan leadership imposed on them by the OGD FORUM.

Recently during a violent disagreement at Sapon Motor Garage in Abeokuta NURTW members were involved in a shoot out. The Police Command was forced to intervene to save innocent commuters and made some arrests after recovering a brand new AK47 gun from some people. This sparked an investigation as to how the gun was removed from the police armoury in Abeokuta. The transfer of Mr Kokumo to Zungeru has stalled that investigation.

VIOLENT REIGN IN IJEBU NORTH:

The brother of one of OGD'S henchman is a known cultist and was rusticated from the Ogun State University for secret cult activities according to a notice posted by the University announcing expulsion of some of its students involved in cult activities. A copy of that notice is attached hereto as ANNEXURE BMS2 for your ease of reference.

The said cultist has since teamed up with his brother to carry out some of the OGD FORUM violent attacks on perceived OMOILU members in Ijebu North.

Our client Busari Mukaila in his statement to us narrates an encounter with Dayo as follows:

"on February 7th 2010 I had stopped my car at Station Garage in Ijebu Igbo to buy a recharge card for my telephone when suddenly a Camry car blocked my car and three men armed with guns came down. One of them was known to me and a known cultist. He came to me and pointed the gun at me and said 'Ajanasi, we asked you to leave OMOILU, if you continue to refuse to leave you will lose your life.' He then walked back to the car with his colleagues and they drove away".

Busari Mukaila stated to us that he took the threat very seriously because he is aware of two persons killed by the OGD henchman, *"the first was a man called 'Tuyo' at Ago Iwoye and the second was a boy killed in front of Chief Okubanjio's house (a.k.a. for the blind)"* He therefore proceeded to report to "the SSS and CIB" who sent operatives to a recent ward meeting our client had convened. The henchman did storm that meeting to disrupt it but was arrested by some police officers who had come from Abuja.

Our Clients confirm that the OGD MEN is known to be aided by a hotelier in Ijebu Igbo who provides him accommodation and a hide out when in the community on his nefarious activities. It was at Toyin Abbas Hotel Rotatex Hotel that he ordered that one Muda Owonla be shot. Muda Owonla escaped death by driving away from the hotel but his car tyre was completely torn to shreds by the shots fired at him. The gun used was an AK47 rifle as the bullets recovered from the shredded tyre showed. That evidence is in the custody of the Ogun State Police Command.

OUR CLIENTS' PETITION:

It is in these circumstances that our clients instruct that we write you and request that you intervene in the brewing disquiet in Ijebu North before a complete break down of law and order ensues and particularly to save our clients from threatened harm or death at the hands of and their armed gang in Ijebu North.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Ifeoma Esom (TRLPLAW SOLICITORS)

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