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ONE KILLED AS FIRE GUTS MONARCH'S PALACE

Posted by: [Jude Isiguzo](#) on March 18, 2013 in [News](#) [Leave a comment](#)

One person was feared dead and two buildings, including the palace of Olu of Igbokoda in Ilaje Local Government Area of Ondo State, were burnt yesterday when hoodlums invaded the town.

Armed with dangerous weapons, the suspects destroyed the palace of the monarch, Oba Afolabi Odidiomo and the house of a chief.

Sources said the attack was a reprisal by the hoodlums who had come to avenge the death of a colleague.

Two of the hoodlums were arrested and taken to the palace where they were handed over to the police.

Oba Odidiomo, who alleged that a traditional ruler within the area, Oba Lawrence Omowole, the Amapetu of Mahin kingdom was behind the attack, traced the attack to a few months before his installation when the Amapetu allegedly installed two persons within Igbokoda as Baale and Oloja.

The monarch said he opposed the development since the two chiefs lived within his domain, but the Amapetu allegedly ordered some boys known as 'Mahin Task Force' to provide security for the two chiefs, adding: "I reported the development to Olugbo of Igboland, Oba Obateru Akinruntan who promised to wade into the matter."

The monarch said two hoodlums apprehended last week by his subjects were handed over to the police, adding: "The following morning, I was told a corpse was found in the river and was identified as one of the Mahin boys and these boys went on the rampage, destroying the palace and some houses belonging to some of my chiefs"

All efforts to speak with Amapetu failed, but a chief, Chief Mesagan, the Oloja of Abereke described the Olu of Igbokoda as "a drowning man who is begging for attention."

The chief said Oba Omowole of Mahin kingdom installed Odidiomo as the monarch of Igbokoda and would not be a party to destroying the house he built.

He, asked Odidiomo make peace with his people rather than pointing fingers at the Amapetu.

He said the body found in the river ignited the attack, adding that it was not from outside.

But Odidiomo insisted that the plot was hatched outside Igbokoda, saying: "This is part of the sustained activities to rubbish me. Last November, they shot at me right in my bedroom. In December, when I accompanied some government officials to inspect our market, they attacked us. Now, they have burnt my palace."

"I want the Inspector General of Police (IGP) to order investigation into this. We had a clear case of rape, murder and then arson and as a lawyer, I am aware these are grave offences." Ondo State Police spokesman, Wole Ogodo said about eight people had been arrested over the crisis.

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Normalcy, he said, had returned to the land.

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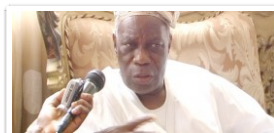
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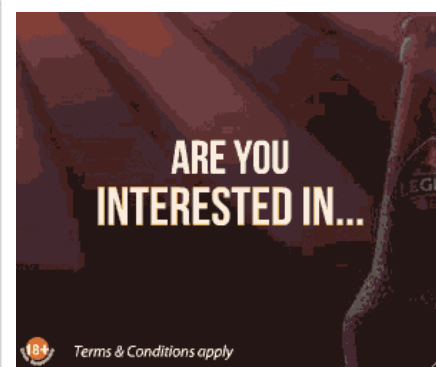
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