

Three feared dead in Ondo protest

Damisi Ojo, Akure

•Monarch flees town

The protest against the alleged plan to relocate the proposed Federal Polytechnic in Ile Oluji, headquarters of Ile Oluji/Okeigbo Local Government of Ondo state, entered its second day yesterday.

Three persons were feared dead and four injured.

On Monday, youths, commercial motorcyclists and senior citizens began a protest. They accused the town's monarch, Oba Suulade Adedugbe, of converting money meant for the community's development to private use.

The protesters invaded the palace and chased the monarch out of his home.

They reassembled yesterday around 8am and went to the palace, demanding the monarch's removal.

Sources said unknown to the youths, Oba Adedugbe left the town on Monday evening.

A source said policemen fired tear gas at the protesters and shot into the air to disperse them.

He said: "Some youths were hit in the process. At least, three youths were feared dead. Some of them, who were injured, were taken to the hospital."

However, another source said the protesters went to the police station to demand the release of some youths that were arrested during Monday's protest.

The source alleged that the protesters attacked some policemen and the police shot at them.

Banks and other businesses abruptly closed for the day around 10am.

Police spokesman Wole Ogodo said no one was killed.

He said a policeman, who was attacked by the protesters, has been hospitalised.

Ogodo said armed mobile policemen have been deployed in the town to restore order and urged residents to go about their normal duties.

"We are on top of the situation", he added.

It was learnt that soldiers from the 32 Artillery Brigade, Akure, have been drafted to Ile-Oluji to maintain order.

The Prime Minister of the community, Lisa Akin Fagbamiye, said the monarch was safe.

He said the protesters razed a building in the palace.