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Akure prison bombed

Posted by: Damisi Ojo in Featured, News 2 days ago 34 Comments

No fewer than 175 inmates of the Olokuta Maximum Security Prison in Akure, the Ondo State capital, have been set free in an unprecedented attack on the facility.

The attack, which took place at about 12.05 am, was launched by a gang of unknown gunmen.

The gunmen shot dead two civilians and used explosives to break into the prison.

They shot sporadically into the air to scare away prison officials before breaking the walls of the facility.

They reportedly entered the prison yard after breaking the keys.

"The unknown gunmen numbering over 20 came at about midnight into the Olokuta prison through the main gate after using dynamite," Prison Comptroller Tunde Olayiwola told Reuters.

"The gunmen shot and killed two people while trying to get in ... Some of the escaped prisoners have been re-arrested," Olayiwola said, adding that some prison staff were injured in a gun battle and were receiving treatment.

The gunmen were said to have attempted to dismantle the main gate into the prison, but were unsuccessful. They then blew off the wall leading into the cells.

It was learnt that one prison official was hit by a bullet. All the inmates at the prison were set free.

Olokuta Prison, which is about one kilometre to the headquarters of the 32 Artillery Brigade of the Nigerian Army, Owena Barracks was reportedly riddled with bullets.

The prison was established in 1989. It was built to accommodate 150 inmates. But at the time of the attack it had about 1,000 prisoners.

The state prison comptroller, Mr. Tunde Olayiwola, described the attack as unusual, stressing that the prison authority would arrest and prosecute the culprits.

He ruled out the possibility of the dreaded Islamic sect, Boko Haram being the masterminds of the attack, saying the incident happened around 12: 05 am.

"We cannot specifically identify those behind the attack, but the incident is unusual. One of our officers was injured during the attack and he is in the hospital right now receiving treatment, but I am assuring that those behind the attack will be brought to book," Olayiwola maintained.

The comptroller said the attack was the first of its kind in the history of the prison.

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Unconfirmed reports said some of the prisoners who were set free by the hoodlums has been arrested by security agents.

Commissioner of Police, Patrick Dokumo and some top government officials have reportedly visited the prison.

Police spokesman Wole Ogodo confirmed the incident, maintaining that it had no link with Boko Haram.

He said: "This incident has nothing to do with terrorism. People should continue with their normal duties. The police will continue to protect lives and properties."

Ogodo urged anybody with information on the incident to give it to the police, pledging that such will be treated with utmost confidentiality.

According to him, all security agents are working to track down the culprits for prosecution.

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34 COMMENTS

 **walter**
July 1, 2013 at 1:58 am

Facility that is for 150 you use it for 1000. So sad! Out of all the inmate I know that about 60 percent will be awaiting trial! The chief justice of the various states should look into it. Some awaiting trial inmates have spent one to two years!

Reply

 **Mr. Nigeria**
July 1, 2013 at 3:05 am

Akure got bombed under Mimiko's watch. Next time you see Gov Mimiko, please, tell him to improve security and citizens' welfare in Ondo State instead of chasing shadows at factional NGF with Gov Jang. The story would have been different if Ondo is governed by ACN.

Reply

 **eyobaba**
July 1, 2013 at 7:39 am

Are you implying that under ACN there will be no need to have a police force because the society will be crime free, the sort of trash people like you release on the net is worrisome, I start wondering what sort of education you had which has limited your power of rational reasoning. It's obvious you are from the south west and I have witnessed the most horrible form of violence since 1960, so violence has been part of the culture of south west, joining ACN will not make south west crime free, but if you tell Nigerians that ACN will reduce the present level of crime within the south west, might be understandable. Don't play politics with a crime committed in a federal establishment will be attributed to the state, mind you the governors have very limited powers over security and as for managing the state I should believe that your governor has performed above average.

Reply

 **Steve**
July 1, 2013 at 8:04 am

Mr. Nigeria or Mr. ACN?, unfortunately for you and your co-travellers, Ondo State is not governed by ACN and will never be. People like you have sworn that Nigeria will not prosper unless your selected party is in charge. By reducing such a national tragedy to a political party supremacy affair, you have shown the stuff you are made of. Nigeria is on the move with or without people like you.

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