

Anger over Kwara traditional ruler's killing

Fresh anger swept across the country yesterday after gunmen killed another traditional ruler, their third in under one week.

The latest victim is the Olukoro of Koro in the Ekiti Local Government area of Kwara State, Oba Olusegun Aremu-Cole who was shot dead in his palace late Thursday, three days after the Elesun of Esun Ekiti, Oba David Babatunde Ogunsakin and the Onimojo of Imojo Ekiti, Oba Olatunde Samuel Olusola were similarly shot dead in neighbouring Ekiti State.

Oba Aremu-Cole's assailants also abducted his wife and two others.

A furious Kwara State Governor AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq vowed yesterday that the murder of Oba Aremu-Cole would be the assailants' "last crime against humanity."

The state police Command said no stone would be left unturned to apprehend them.

Ekiti State Governor Biodun Oyejobi rushed to Abuja to seek the help of the Service chiefs to stop criminals terrorizing the state while the Ooni of Ife, Oba Adeyeye Ogunsakin promised to rally Southwest governors in the fight against criminality in the zone.

The Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Sa'ad Abubakar urged the security agencies to take the "anti-crime battle to these criminals now."

Oba Aremu-Cole, The Nation gathered, was killed soon after returning from a meeting of the local government council of traditional rulers at Osi, a neighbouring community.

A close friend of the late retired army general confided that the deceased was preparing to sleep when the goons struck.

"The oba was even said to have had a WhatsApp chat with one of his subjects until 7:15pm on the ill-fated day," the source said.

He added: "It was some minutes past 8pm that the incident happened."

"It is so unfortunate that a retired general would be killed like chicken."

Governor AbdulRazaq described the killing as reckless, shocking, and abominable.

He charged the security agencies not to spare any resources to track down the perpetrators, free his spouse and others taken away.

"We will certainly get the perpetrators and ensure that this is their last crime against humanity," the governor said, and consoled the people of Koro.

"Our hearts are broken, and we stand by them at this time and always," he said.

AbdulRazaq's deputy, Mr. Kayode Alabi visited the town to console with the people.

Like his principal, he said the perpetrators would be fished out for prosecution and the abductees rescued.

The Senator representing Kwara Central Senatorial District, Mallam Saliu Mustapha condemned the murder which he called "a sacrilege of our communal values and traditions."

He asked the security agencies not to relent in their pursuit of the perpetrators "and bring them to justice to send a clear message that such acts of violence and disregard for human life will not be tolerated in Kwara State."

The Emir of Ilorin, Alhaji

- Slain traditional ruler was retired general • AbdulRazaq vows to bring killers to justice
- Ilorin Emir: Incident extremely painful, unfortunate • Ekiti gov meets security chiefs over insecurity
- Troops kill 185 terrorists, arrest 212 others • Gunmen attack patrol team, kill policeman in Ebonyi



• L-R: Senate Leader/Chairman of Ekiti Caucus in National Assembly, Senator Opeyemi Bamidele; Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), General Christopher Gwabin; and Ekiti State Governor, Mr Biodun Oyejobi, during a meeting with the CDS over security situation in Ekiti State, at the Defence Headquarters, Abuja on Thursday.

Emmanuel Oladesu; Adekunle Jimoh, Ilorin; Uja Emmanuel, Makurdi; Yinka Adeniran, Ibadan

Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari expressed condolences to the entire members of the State Traditional Rulers Council and the people of Koro over the murder.

He urged Kwara government to ensure that necessary support to security agencies to enable them curb the incessant crimes and criminality across the state.

The Emir urged religious leaders across the state to embark on special prayers, to restore peace and harmony that Kwara was known for globally.

Former Senate President Bukola Saraki expressed concern over the worsening state of insecurity in Kwara, charging the government to secure lives and properties.

"It is disturbing to witness this level of carnage in a state that has always been a haven of peace and harmony," he said, adding, "While we continue to pray for the safe rescue of the abductees, we ask the government and security operatives to be up and doing, to ensure adequate security for the people in Kwara State."

"These criminals must be apprehended and made to face the full wrath of the law."

The state police command said it has commenced investigation into the murder.

Its spokesperson Toun Ejire-Adeyemi said: "Immediate and intensive investigations are underway to apprehend those criminals for this reprehensible act."

"We assure the public that no stone will be left unturned in ensuring that the perpetrators are brought to justice swiftly."

"Security measures in the Koro community have been intensified, tactical teams are being mobilized to beef up security to ensure the safety and well-being of residents."

She urged the public to "remain calm, vigilant, and cooperative as we work tirelessly to unravel this matter; arrest and charge the culprits to court."

"The command remains resolute in its commitment to safeguarding lives and property."

"The command, under the

leadership of the Commissioner of Police Victor Olaiya expresses its heartfelt condolences to the family, friends, and the entire community affected by this heinous act.

"Our prayers are with them during this challenging time."

Ooni to rally Southwest governors to secure region

Oba Ogunsakin, speaking on the occasion of the 2024 edition of Oodua Festival, organized by the Olukun Festival Foundation (OFF) in Ile Ife, said the killing of the two Ekiti State Obas was a bad omen and a pointer to the fact that bad elements are making the region unsafe for the people.

Represented by the Obalufe of Ife Kingdom, Oba Idowu Adediwura, the Ooni pledged to rally the South West Governors to involve the Aare Onakakanfo of Yorubaland, Iba Gani Adams in securing the region.

"It is time to use what we have to get what we want. We want peace in Yorubaland. We want effective security of lives and property. We want to sleep with our two eyes closed and we have a rising star who can make that possible," he said.

Adams stressed the need for a lasting synergy between the government and the people at the grassroots to make the region safe for all.

"We will not allow the Plateau massacre to be replicated in any part of Yorubaland," he said.

Sultan to security agencies: Now is time to take the battle to bandits

The Sultan described the killing of the Ekiti obas as extremely painful and very unfortunate.

He called on the Inspector General of Police and heads of other relevant security agencies to go after the killers and present them before the law of the land for justice to be done.

"The police should take its anti-crime battle to these criminals now, wherever they are, whoever they are and ensure that no matter their status and stature in the society, they should not be spared and must

be brought to justice, while efforts must be made to henceforth prevent repeat of such dastardly act before it happens in the future," he said.

Sultan of Sokoto and President-General of the Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs, NSCIA, Alhaji Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar, has expressed concern over the recent murder of two Ekiti traditional rulers.

The Sultan, in a statement issued on Friday by his media team, said the development is one that all must condemn, describing it as unfortunate.

The gunmen suspected to be bandits killed the Elesun of Esun Ekiti, Oba David Babatunde Ogunsakin and the Onimojo of Imojo Ekiti, Oba Olatunde Samuel Olusola on Monday.

While the Alara of Ara Ekiti, Oba Adebayo Fatoba was said to have escaped death by the whiskers.

The three traditional rulers were traveling along the Oke-Ako road, in Ilole Local Government Area of the state when they were killed.

They were returning from a security meeting in Irele Ekiti when the gunmen struck.

Reacting, the Sultan said the unfortunate incident was "extremely painful and very unfortunate."

He called on the Inspector General of Police and heads of other relevant security agencies to go after the killers and present them before the law of the land for justice to be done.

"The police should take its anti-crime battle to these criminals now, wherever they are, whoever they are and ensure that no matter their status and stature in the society, they should not be spared and must be brought to justice, while efforts must be made to henceforth prevent repeat of such dastardly act before it happens in the future," he said.

Sunday Igboho invokes Ogun against assailants

In his reaction, Yoruba nation agitator Sunday Adeyemo popularly known as Sunday Igboho invoked the Yoruba god of iron, Ogun. Against the murderers of the traditional rulers.

Igboho, in a statement through his lawyer, Pelumi Olajengbesi said "I categorically condemn these barbaric murders and urgently call on both the state and federal governments to take decisive actions in bringing the perpetrators to justice."

"We demand the immediate apprehension of the murderers and a thorough search of the surrounding woods and forests to root out those hiding to perpetrate such evil deeds."

"In seeking justice, I invoke the god of iron, Ogun, to intervene and put an end to this menace. May the collective will of the Yoruba people prevail, and may the departed monarchs find eternal peace. We stand in unified grief and resolve to ensure that such tragedies do not mar the peace and prosperity of our beloved Yorubaland."

"This is very painful. Our people deserve to live. All those connected to such wicked acts, be it for politics, criminality, or sheer wickedness, should know that the end is near."

Oyejobi meets Service Chiefs, seeks strategic intervention in Ekiti

Governor Oyejobi on Thursday met with the Service Chiefs in Abuja to fashion out a more strategic approach to stem the current state of insecurity in some parts of the State.

The governor's meeting with the service chiefs came on the heels of recent security breaches in the state, specifically the killing of the traditional rulers and the abduction of some pupils and their teachers in Emure Ekiti.

Oyejobi, who was at the Defence Headquarters, Abuja alongside the Chairman of Ekiti caucus at the National Assembly and Senate Leader, Senator Opeyemi Bamidele, met with the Chief of Defence Staff, General Christopher Musa and the Chief of Army Staff, General Taoreed Lagbaja separately. He also met with other security chiefs.

The governor explained that Ekiti State had been experiencing peace for the past years, but that the peace was trun-

cated by the security breaches that occurred some days ago.

He said: "I need to rush here because the President spoke with me and gave certain directives that I needed to act on as soon as possible."

"What makes the Ekiti situation a bit pathetic was the dimension it took. Among the Yoruba people, the traditional rulers are next to God. When you bring down two traditional rulers at once in such a gruesome manner, it sends a very dangerous signal to the entire race."

He pointed out that the abduction of school children portends a dangerous dimension, adding that such had never been experienced in the state.

The Governor who exchanged ideas with the military top hierarchy, pushed for the deployment of more military personnel to the state to burst criminal hideouts, as well as provision of a Forward Operating Base to strengthen the security architecture of the state.

"If we have enough men on ground, I mean the armed forces, there is a way we can police the three senatorial districts because we have an idea of where these people are and most of the time when the Army joins the local vigilante groups, they make some arrests."

"My plea to you is that if they cannot give us a Command in Ekiti State now, because I don't know the budgetary provision for that, we need a Forward Operating Base (FOB) as soon as possible. Whatever it is going to take, as a government, we will provide because announcements must be made to strengthen the security architecture of the state and give the people some respite."

Governor Oyejobi promised the state government's support for the military to get rid of the criminals infiltrating the state.

In his remarks, Bamidele said the recent situation in Ekiti demanded a military intervention and called for immediate intervention.

Responding to the demands, the Chief of Defence Staff, General Christopher Musa, assured the Governor that the Armed Forces would do all within its power to track down the perpetrators of the crimes that happened in Ekiti State.

Just like the Civilian Task Force (JTF) in the North, the Chief of Defence Staff said the Army was ready to work with the local security network, stressing the need to leverage on technology, establishment of State-Community Policing, introduction of animal ranches, amongst others.

"We do not have enough manpower on ground so we always have to make do with the locals. I was in the North East and we used the Civilian Joint Task Force (JTF) and they gave us lots of support. Maybe we put them on contracts and on renewal basis and we are able to monitor them if we see anyone misbehaving we remove them, this brings out the issue of community policing, it is very critical," General Musa added.

The Onimojo and the Elesun were on their way back home from a security meeting in Ilole Ekiti when they ran into the bandits.

Their colleague, the Alara of Ara Ekiti, Oba Adebayo Fatoba, who was with them during the trip narrowly escaped.