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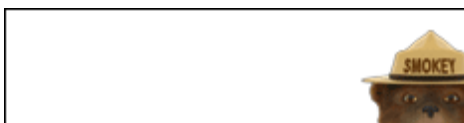
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70-year-old man killed in church in Ogun

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Ten armed men suspected to be assassins, on Sunday morning, invaded the premises of St. John's Anglican Church, Oke-Sopen, Ijebu-Igbo, in Ijebu North Local Government Area of Ogun State and killed a 70-year-old man, Chief Tola Okuneye, popularly known as "Ajagajigi."

Nigerian Tribune learnt that the assailants stormed the premises of the church in two vehicles at about 11.a.m, while the Sunday service was still on and went directly to the pew where Chief Okuneye was sitting and shot him on the head.

An eyewitness told the Nigerian Tribune that they killed him and fled the scene without taking anything away from him.

He said, "The service was on when we noticed that some boys numbering about 10 and armed to the teeth entered the church and headed straight to where Chief Okuneye was sitting and shot him on the head. It was the time our preacher was about to mount the pulpit. It was around 11a.m.

"We were shocked and everybody was jittery as the service abruptly came to an end. Some people, especially the elderly, are still in shock as I speak to you now. The deceased was not a politician. If it were so, we would have been thinking that his political opponents carried out the act. As it is now, the church has been deserted, except a few people who are with the Pastor."

Another source informed the Nigerian Tribune that the deceased could have been killed due to the many legal matters he had before the court.

"Otunba was not a politician, so his death could not have been politically motivated. I know that he had many cases in the courts of law and from my observation, we cannot rule this out as a motivation for his killing, but God knows best."

Okuneye was among the earliest furniture makers in Ijebuland. He is survived by six wives and over 20 children, while his remains had been deposited at the mortuary of the general hospital in Ijebu-Igbo.

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