

Again, one feared killed as 200 militants invade Lagos, Ogun communities

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THE tension at Imushin, Elepete, Igbo Olomu and Imuti communities in Ogun and Lagos states continued on Monday, as suspected pipeline vandals, numbering over 200, reportedly killed another one person.

War looms between the Hausa community in Imushin, Elepete and the rampaging militants as the Hausa had reportedly threatened to avenge the death of their kinsmen, who were killed over at the weekend.

This is as residents of the communities started relocating from the villages, following reported threat from the vandals that they were coming back.

There was sporadic shooting early Monday as the hoodlums marched through the communities, forcing residents to remain indoors.

Parents whose children had gone to schools hurriedly went to pick their wards, forcing many of the schools to close early while businesses were also shut down.

A resident, Silelola Fasan, who himself had relocated his family from one of the communities (Igbo Olomu), described the Monday experience as "warlike."

Silelola added that "the Monday incident was more terrifying because they came during the day time. They came out around 8.00 a.m. and they were still patrolling these communities till after 10.00 a.m., shortly before the soldiers arrived."

"There were about 200 of them, heavily armed. They marched through Elepete and other communities, shooting seriously."

He also said "many people have started relocating from the communities. In fact, I have relocated my wife and children from here, I just came back to observe things."

A policeman, simply identified as Ogedengbe, was also among residents of the communities that had relocated family members from Elepete as a result of the Monday crisis.

It was gathered that a detachment of soldiers drafted to the communities with three armoured personnel carriers succeeded in chasing away the militants.

There was concern, however, by the villagers, following the disappearance of the soldiers, who reportedly only waited for less than two hours before vacating the communities.

Many residents expressed fear of a likely communal clash in the troubled communities, following reported threats by the Hausa community to confront the militants and avenge the death of their brothers.

The image maker in charge of the Lagos State police command, Dolapo Badmos, said the whole thing started when the police foiled an attempt to kidnap some residents.

"Our men received information that some suspected kidnappers have entered the community. SARS operatives were deployed to the place and they succeeded in arresting one of the suspects, who took the police to Topkatt hotel where other gang members were lodging."

"Other suspects tried to escape by firing at our policemen and the operatives responded," she said.

The Lagos police spokesperson also said two of the gang members sustained gunshot injuries and were rushed to General Hospital where they were confirmed dead, adding that another member is currently undergoing treatment.

At Itaoluwo community, the militants began shooting at about 1.00 a.m. till 3.00 a.m. on Monday.

Lagos Metro gathered that more people also moved

out of the community at the dawn of Monday.

It was learnt that the Divisional Police Officers of Ogijo, Ijede and Odogunyan visited the community to see the residents on Monday.

A source who spoke to Lagos Metro on Monday said people were moving out of the community in droves,

running for their lives.

"The militant had come back to attack just as they promised to do on Friday during their first attack. They came back around 1.00 a.m. on Monday and began to shoot till about 3.00 a.m."

"They are pipeline vandals, they robbed, they killed, they

kidnapped, they are threat to Imushin community as a whole," he said.

The community leader of Itaoluwo community, the Olumushin of Imushin, Taiwo Adebunmi Gbambose, appealed to the Lagos and Ogun state governments to come to their rescue.

"We need a tight security

because no one can withstand the militants' ammunition, they are powerful and fearful."

"We don't know if they will still come back the third time. These militants don't value human lives and we don't know what to do concerning this whole thing," he said.



A woman leaving one of the communities with her children after the attack on Monday morning.

UNILAG students' death: Elegushi family shuts beach, rejects govt's indictment • Assembly demands safety gadgets at beaches

BOILA BADMUS AND
CHUKWUMA OKPARAOCHA

THE Elegushi royal family of Ikateland and owner of the beach facility where two post-graduate students of the University of Lagos (UNILAG), Funmi Odusina and Adesola Ogunmefun, drowned a few days ago, has announced the official closure of the beach till further notice.

The family said it took the decision as part of efforts to pay last respect to the late post-graduate students and towards improving the management standard at the beach.

Addressing newsmen at the Elegushi Palace in Lekki, on Sunday, the Asiwaju of Ikateland, Prince Olanrewaju Elegushi, said the management of the beach deemed it fit to also

close shops in honour of the deceased, notwithstanding the support the royal family rendered to the families of the deceased up till the time of their burial.

The royal family, while condoling with the family of the late students, however, refuted the claim that the death of the victims was caused by poor safety facilities at the beach.

According to Prince Elegushi, every necessary safety and precautionary measure, including the provision of lifeguards, flags, security, as well as ambulances, was always on ground at the beach.

He claimed that none of the students died at the beach as the lifeguards on ground quickly dived into the water to rescue them, adding that none of them died on the spot as being peddled around.

"We may not have the best practices when it comes to beach management, but I can tell you that the safety measures at the beach will be difficult to match anywhere else around," Prince Elegushi said.

Meanwhile, moved by the tragedy at the Elegushi Beach, the state House of Assembly has called for the fixing of gadgets that will enhance safety of lives in all beaches in the state.

The lawmakers made this stance on Monday, through the assembly's committees on water-fronts infrastructure and tourism and culture, which were both tasked to work with the necessary ministries, with a view to coming up with the necessary regulations that would help enhance safety in all beaches and hotels in the state.

4 docked for breaking into warehouse

OLUFUNMI ISEOTAN

FOUR men were, on Monday, arraigned before an Ikeja magistrates' court for allegedly breaking into a warehouse and stealing iron plates and rods valued at N5 million.

The men allegedly committed the crime on May 20 at Plot B, Maria Road, Alakoso

Avenue.

The suspects were identified as Wasiu Polaranmi, Aremu Afeez, Akinlabi Ismaila and Ege Rafiu.

The police accused the men of allegedly breaking into a warehouse after which they stole 197 pieces of iron plates and rods worth N5 million, properties of GBNT Global Limited.

The men all pleaded not guilty and the presiding magistrate, Aje Afunwa, granted them bail of N500,000 each, with the two sureties in like sum.

The case was adjourned till September 23, while the men were remanded in prison pending when they would fulfill their bail conditions.