

Fear in Ibadan over alleged serial killers

By Tunde Ogunesan

FEAR of ritual killers has enveloped residents and people in Ibadan, Oyo State, especially at Abatakan, Ojoo, Fatokun Olomowewe and Akingbile areas all in Akinyele Local Government Area of the state.

According to investigations, the residents have resolved to always return home early from their daily businesses, close their doors and advised any visitor to make calls when visiting.

A resident living around G & P informed the *Nigerian Tribune* that "people in my area now close their doors around 5:30pm, leaving whoever intends to visit to make calls if they will open their doors.

"Even those who sell pro-

visions now subject their customers to putting calls through before they would open their doors. To them, identifying anybody by ordinary voice is dangerous these days."

Six people have been reportedly killed in three operations at three locations within the space of 30 days by hoodlums suspected to be serial killers.

The first reported of such deaths by suspected ritual killers was said to have occurred at Abatakan, near Ojoo, on old Ibadan-Oyo Road. Four persons were reportedly killed during the incident.

The killers, as gathered, used cutlasses to hack their victims before using grinding stones to smash their heads; then the blood wiped with a handkerchief left. The as-

sailants left without stealing anything from their victims.

The second was said to have allegedly occurred at Fatokun, behind Amuludun FM of the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN), during which one person was killed in the same manner.

The money, which the woman purportedly had with her at the time she was killed, was not taken away. The killers only broke her head with grinding stone and used handkerchief to clean her blood and left with the blood-stained handkerchief.

The third incident happened on Saturday, August 24 at Olomowewe, near Akingbile in Moniya area of Ibadan.

An old woman, Mrs. Oluyemisi Peter, was also

said to have been murdered in the same manner. A granddaughter of the deceased woman, who was with her escaped death narrowly, but she was hit with the grinding stone on the head.

Nigerian Tribune gathered that apart from six people who had lost their lives, another woman is currently hospitalised with a very deep injury.

The victim, sources informed *Nigerian Tribune*, was still in coma as at the time of filing this report.

There are fears in Ibadan that the style of operations of the serial killers is similar to that Badoo boys who terrorised Ikorodu town, Lagos State.

But the state police command has warned the public not to jump into conclusion

by comparing the operation to that of Badoo boys.

The Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Oyo Police Command, SP Oluwagbenga Fadeyi, in an interview with the *Nigerian Tribune*, said: "I want to appeal to residents not to entertain any fear over this development, as the police will clamp down on the suspects soonest."

Fadeyi also advised journalist to exercise caution in ascribing Badoo boys mode of operation to that of the serial killers that have stormed Monica area in Ibadan.

He said: "People of the state, including journalists, should not be too quick to compare the operations of these attackers with that of Badoo boys of Ikorodu. We should not engage in a report that will create fear in

the minds of the people.

"I am saying this because people tend to believe the story, and could be running helter-skelter when the case has not actually degenerated to that level.

"Already, the police command is clamping down on the suspects; very soon, police authorities will definitely showcase them.

"Again, people should be ready to assist the police with credible information, though we have our officers, both uniformed and others, around the neighbourhood to work around the place.

"People with credible information should endeavour to call control room on 07055495413 and 08081768614, from all nooks and crannies of the state, to report distress situation," Fadeyi stated.

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