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Ilobu/Erin-Osun crisis: Death toll rises to 6 We'll deal with curfew violators, Osun CP warns residents

Adeolu Adeyemo | Osogbo

AS the death toll of those killed in the crisis between Ilobu and Erin-Osun over a land dispute is said to have risen to six, indigenes of both communities have started counting their losses as properties worth billions of naira have been razed by the warring groups.

At the Elerin of Erin-Osun's palace, about 12 vehicles were reportedly burnt, while expensive valuables were also destroyed during the crisis, while the palace chiefs, including other occupants ran for safety when incessant gunshots rent the air.

Also, no fewer than 20 persons are said to be receiving treatment at different undisclosed hospitals in the two communities, while some victims of gunshots are also being attended to by some traditionalists who are busy extracting bullets from their bodies.

Investigations further revealed that some indigenes of the two communities have fled their abode for adjoining villages to seek refuge to avoid being killed by fierce-looking warriors.

Speaking on the development, the Ilurin of Erin Osun, High Chief Olawuyi Adeleke, told *Nigerian Tribune*: "The two communities were to discuss on the disputed land and resolve on some terms of agreement before some masked unidentified men, numbering about 25 from Ilobu stormed Erin-Osun.

According to him, while on the land, "we saw about 25 masked men who were armed on the land in question. We could not recognise any of them. Because of that, we could not do anything. They beat us up and we left the place".

Also, the Otun Jagun of Ilobu, High Chief Goke Ogunsola, who is also the legal adviser to the Ilobu Descendant Union, said about 10 years ago, there was an issue on the land. The land was sold to a family and when they started to build on the land, the Erin-Osun people mobilised some people to the place and, destroyed their houses."

Meanwhile, few hours after the declaration of curfew in Irepodun and Orolu local government areas of the state as a result of the

land dispute crisis that has claimed lives and left many injured, the state's Commissioner of Police, Olawale Olokode, has charged residents of the local government areas to comply with the directive.

Whoever violates the curfew, according to him, will face the full wrath of the law.

The police commissioner, who said this in a statement in Osogbo, the state capital, added that those responsible for the violence would be made to face the full wrath of the law.

The statement signed by the state's Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Opalola Yemisi, has however, ordered the Area Commander and Divisional Police Officers within the Area of Responsibility (AOR) in which the violence erupted to enforce a 24-hour curfew declared by the state government with immediate effect.

"It should be noted that the state government has declared a 24-hour curfew in Irepodun and Orolu local government areas of the state, following the violence that broke out between Ilobu and Erin-Osun communities on Saturday.

"The police boss enjoins citizens and residents of the affected local government areas to comply with the directive of the government which has been emplaced until further notice, as anyone found violating the curfew and those responsible for the violence would be made to face the full wrath of the law," the statement said.

He further charged all the citizens of the state to be peaceful and be law abiding as all efforts will be made to protect lives and properties within the state.

However, to put an end to the crisis, the traditional rulers of the communities signed a peace pact on Monday and pledged to placate their subjects to give peace a chance.

Present at the meeting were the Commissioner of Police, Wale Olokode; the *Olobu* of Ilobu, *Oba* Ashiru Olaniyan and the *Elerin* of Erin-Osun, *Oba* Yusuf Omoloye.

The *Olufon* of Ifon, *Oba* Almaroof Magbagbeola and the national commissioner, National Population Commission, Senator Mudashir Hussain, were also present.

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