

Three killed, 10 injured in night attack on Oyo community

Schools shut, offices deserted, residents flee town

LG chairman, traditional ruler run to Ibadan, send SOS to IGP

By Wale Akinselure

THREE persons were killed while 10 others were injured when gunmen who reportedly wore police uniforms launched an attack on Ajaawa headquarters of Ogo Oluwa Local Government Area of Oyo State in the early hours of Tuesday.

Residents, at about 1:15 a.m. on Tuesday, were woken up to repeated sounds of gunshots which lasted for

about an hour.

The town's Ifa priest, Chief Ifaleye Jayeola, was the main victim of the attack, as he was stabbed to death by the attackers after bullets rained on him failed to penetrate his body.

Chairman of Ogo Oluwa Local Government Area, Mr Seun Ojo, alongside the Alajaawa of Ajaawa, Oba Thompson Adeyeye, who recounted the incident to newsmen in Ibadan, added that all schools were, on Tuesday, shut, while offices

and the local government headquarters were deserted as residents continued to flee to Ogbomoso and other neighbouring communities.

Both the chairman and the traditional ruler noted that they had to run to Ibadan, the state capital, for help, adding that they were even scared to return to Ajaawa as those residents left in the community presently live in fear.

They alleged that the attack was carried out by a detachment from the In-

spector General Police team called upon by a resident of the town, one Gideon [surname withheld].

They consequently urged the Inspector-General of Police, Usman Alkali Baba, to save their souls in the community.

Earlier this month, Gideon had come under attack from residents of the town, with his house burnt over allegations that he was behind kidnappings and killings of some community dwellers.

Tuesday's attack was al-

leged to be a reprisal by Gideon, who residents had frowned at his exotic lifestyle without any known occupation, while also using police escorts to oppress residents.

Oba Adeyeye lamented that efforts to call Gideon to order had consistently yielded no result, with the traditional ruler adding that he [Gideon] had continued to threaten to have the powers to deal with him or any resident threatening his existence in the community.

Asked whether there was any chieftaincy tussle in the community, Oba Adeyeye said though Gideon is a member of a ruling house, it was not yet their turn to produce the traditional ruler of the town.

The Alajaawa said the fear of him and other residents to stay in Ajaawa is increased by the fact that the police in the state claimed they are handicapped to deal with an issue purportedly emanating from the force headquarters in Abuja.

Armed herdsmen have invaded our