

Protesters storm Agodi Secretariat over killing of teenager, finger *Amotekun*

Amotekun operatives didn't operate at said area —Commandant

By Wale Akinselure

PROTESTERS stormed the main entrance of the Oyo State Secretariat on Wednesday to protest the killing of a 15-year-old boy identified as Peter in the wee hours of the day.

Conveying the corpse of the deceased on the roof of a tricycle, the protesters alleged that the boy was shot dead by *Amotekun* personnel.

Peter, an apprentice working with a printing press at Uncle Joe area of Mokola, was said to be on his way to buy food at about 2:00 a.m. when he was shot dead.

Before getting to the state secretariat, the protesters set bonfires and protested at the *Amotekun* office at Dandaru

area, leading to commotion from Mokola to the state secretariat.

The gates leading into the state secretariat were hurriedly shut to prevent the protesters from taking the corpse inside.

Human and vehicular movements into the Secretariat were disrupted for several hours, just as workers and commuters sought alternative routes.

Several teams of policemen were subsequently drafted to the secretariat to calm the situation.

Afterwards, a police vehicle conveyed the corpse to the morgue of the Adeoyo Hospital.

Speaking at the entrance of the secretariat, one of the protesters said: "We do not want

Amotekun to be using guns. Seyi Makinde must withdraw guns from *Amotekun*."

"The killing happened at Uncle Joe area of Mokola. He [the deceased] was into printing. He went to buy food and *Amotekun* operatives were there, shooting and a bullet hit the boy. It was at about 2:00 a.m."

"He was the only child of the family. He was writing the West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE) and learning painting and printing. He was the only son of his father."

The Executive Assistant on Security to Governor Seyi Makinde, Mr Sunday Odukoya, made efforts to appease the protesting youths, but they insisted on seeing the governor.

When *Nigerian Tribune* vis-

ited the *Amotekun* office at Dandaru, the commandant of the security agency, Colonel Olayinka Olayanju (retd) said men of *Amotekun* Corps did not operate at Mokola in the wee hours of Wednesday.

Olayanju said his men only responded to a distress call by residents of Sango area that they were being robbed.

Members of the Sango Landlords Association, led by its secretary, Olusola Kokori, who were at the *Amotekun* office, also confirmed that the community invited *Amotekun* operatives to rescue them from armed robbers who operated in their area at about 1.15 a.m. on Wednesday.

Olusola said 17 communities from Sango to Alaro areas had been experiencing armed robbery attacks for the past

two months with one person killed.

Speaking further, Colonel Olayanju challenged anyone with evidence that *Amotekun* operatives were responsible for the killing of the boy to bring it forward.

He said those angered at the activities of the outfit since its existence might be behind the allegation.

Olayanju said: "They [protesters] were here between 6.30 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. and later took the corpse to the secretariat. If you say *Amotekun* has killed someone, there should be evidence."

"All our vehicles have peculiar colour and unique numbers to trace them. We have had cases like this in the past and because of the informa-

tion given to us, we were able to trace."

"I can't say what led to the activities of all these people, but because of what we have been doing for the past eight months, some people will not like *Amotekun* to be in existence and they feel we are a threat to them as we do not allow them carry out their nefarious activities, whether within the town or hinterland. Those who are peaceful and law abiding have nothing to fear."

"We only operated at Sango community where we were called by the community members after being under attack from armed robbers."

"This is a political environment and some who are not happy with the present government will likely use such things to get at the governor."

Gunmen kill netrol dealer