

Fruit seller raped to death by suspected herdsmen inside farm in Ondo

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A middle-aged fruit seller, Mrs Rose-line Joguntan, has been raped to death in her farm in Zion area of Igbokoda, headquarters of Ilaje Local Government Area of Ondo State.

It was gathered that the woman, who left home with her daughter to the farm to pick some fruits, was found dead after being raped by some hoodlums.

The woman was said to have asked her daughter to take the filled basket home as she waited for her to return to the farm. However, when the girl returned, she found her mother's body in a pool of blood in the farm.

The girl rushed home to inform her father about the incident and they both returned to the farm to see her corpse.

The husband, who reported the incident, explained that "after gathering the first basket of fruits, she

told her daughter to bring it home.

"It was when the girl returned that she noticed that her mother was missing, before she was later found dead in the bush, where it was discovered that she had been raped and killed."

Residents of the community, however, claimed the woman was gang-raped and killed by suspected herdsmen.

They said that no sooner than the incident happened, that some herdsmen were

seen vacating the town en masse.

Speaking on the incident, the Public Relations Officer of Ilaje Security Council, Prince Emorioloye Owolemi, called on the state government to come to the rescue of residents of Igbokoda.

He said killings were already becoming rampant in the council area.

Owolemi said: "It is so sad that Igbokoda is witnessing the highest security threat as killings occur daily. People live in fear and business ac-

tivities have been paralysed.

"Therefore, we are calling on the state government to help in strengthening the local vigilante in Igbokoda.

"The security task force the governor directed the council chairman to organise is yet to be established. We are determined to fight for justice on behalf of any of our indigenes, and before things get out of hand in Igbokoda, all perpetrators must face the full wrath of the law."

Owolemi also called on the

commissioner of police in the state and other security agencies to, as a matter of urgency, unravel the circumstances that led to the killing of Mrs Joguntan and bring the perpetrators to the book.

The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Funmilayo Odunlami, who confirmed the incident, said the command had already commenced investigation into the matter.

She said the body of the woman had been deposited at the morgue.