

One killed, palace burnt as angry residents protest installation of new Ikirun monarch

Adeolu Adeyemo | Osogbo

ONE person was on Wednesday killed by protesting indigenes of Ikirun in Ifelodun Local Government Area of Osun State over alleged forceful installation of Oba Olalekan Akadiri as the new monarch of the town by the state government.

The protesters also razed the palace.

Investigations revealed that the person killed was one Lukman Omoola, from

the Gboleru ruling house, one of the ruling houses that contested for the position of the Akirun vacant stool.

Since Oba Akadiri's appointment, the palace had been sealed off by indigenes who placed charms at the entrance.

The Osun State government had presented the new Oba with the instrument of office last week at the state secretariat in Osogbo, the state capital, but indigenes insisted he would not rule over them as monarch.

The chiefs and head of the

kingmakers in the community were also against the choice of the state government.

However, following Wednesday's crisis, security operatives immediately moved into the community to restore normalcy.

Speaking on the development, an elder brother to the deceased, Prince Tajudeen Gboleru, confirmed the death of his brother, just as he charged security operatives to apprehend his killers.

He further appealed to the

state governor, Mr Gboyega Oyetola, to right all wrongs before he leaves power.

Also speaking, a resident in the community, Adesoji Adekunle, blamed the state government for the crisis, saying it imposed an unacceptable candidate on the people as monarch.

Some elders in the community had last week faulted the decision of the state government during a press briefing in Osogbo by Professor Yakubu Fabiyi.

They then called for the reversal of the installation of

the monarch.

However, the state Commissioner for Information and Civic Orientation, Funke Egbemode, said the government had not done anything contrary to the law.

She said: "No injunction was served on us. Where there are legal battles, we allow the legal process to be sorted before memos were brought to the council. So nothing was stopping us from installing the Akirun as a government because there was no injunction served on the government.

"There are many thrones across the state waiting for approval to be filled and we are very painstaking in bringing memos to the executive council and we do our due diligence. If not, since we began sitting in 2019, we would be approving monarchs every time.

"The stool of Akirun is not an exception; we did our due diligence and we were not served any court injunction. The state was not restrained and we have no reason to want to commit any infraction."

6 Court remands prophet over