

Communities trade words over killing of man on farmland in Osun

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THE killing of 28-year-old Sunday Alamu, an indigene of Ilobu area of Osun State on his farmland has sparked a communal crisis in the state.

The corpse of Alamu of Aganna's compound, who was declared missing by his relatives on Friday, was found riddled with bullets on Saturday morning.

Residents of Ilobu, following the incident, accused certain persons, who hail from Ifon-Osun, of orchestrating the killing.

According to a statement by the spokesperson of Ilobu-Asake Development Union, Taiiru Babatunde, said: "Sodiq was declared missing by his family members on Friday evening after he had left home for the farm on Friday morning.

"His corpse was found on Saturday morning with bul-

let injuries on his back. A team of police officers led by the Divisional Police Officer, Ilobu have removed the corpse."

Babatunde also called on Governor Ademola Adeleke to reign in "belligerent elements in Ifon-Osun to avoid breakdown of law and order."

"In the meantime, the President of IDU, Pastor Olufemi Salako, is urging every son and daughter of Ilobu to remain calm and peaceful in face of obvious provocation. Ours is a home of hospitality and we shall remain so," the statement read in part.

But in a separate statement, leaders of Ifon-Orolu denied any involvement of the town's indigenes in the "unfortunate incident."

In the statement issued by National Publicity Secretary of Ifon-Orolu Progressive Union, Mr Basit Olatunji, the

community called on the police and other security agencies to investigate and bring the perpetrators to book.

The statement read in part: "We are also seeking adequate protection for the people and residents of Orolu Local Government Area, who have been unduly subjected to intimidation, harassment and unjustified allegations by the people of Ilobu Community."

Meanwhile, the Osun State Police Command has charged people of the state especially, the residents of Ilobu and Ifon in Irepodun and Orolu Local Governments Area to remain calm, adding that investigation into the incident had begun.

The police statement read: "The Police Command is aware of the report of the incident of the death of one Sodiq Alamu about 28 years of age along Opapa village in Ilobu and

therefore passionately appeal to the residents of both communities (Ilobu & Ifon) and its environs to remain calm as investigation has immediately commenced to unravel the circumstances that led to the death of the young man.

"The command is aware of clandestine meetings being held by some individuals/groups of people to cause mayhem within the communities.

"The Commissioner of Police, CP Patrick Kehinde Longer, since the report of the incident, has had meetings with Olobu of Ilobu, Oba Ashiru Olaniyan, and other relevant stakeholders to appeal to their subjects to remain peaceful and not to take laws into their hands as the Police Command will not relent until the circumstances is unraveled and suspect(s) are brought to book."