

# Ifon/Orolu communal war: Eight feared killed, four policemen shot, patrol vehicle, houses burnt

## Govt revokes disputed land

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**E**IGHT persons were feared killed during the communal war between Ilobu and Ifon communities in Osun State on Wednesday, just as soldiers, policemen and operatives of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) now patrol the communities to maintain peace.

Speaking on the number of casualties recorded so far, the **Otun Jagun** of Ilobu, Adegoke Ogunsola, during a press conference, said four persons were killed in the town, while investigations in Ifon community revealed that four casualties were also recorded.

Also, it was gathered that a Divisional Police Officer (DPO), alongside three other policemen were shot and their patrol van razed during the clash.

The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Yemisi Opalola, confirmed that the DPO of Ilobu was among the four policemen who were shot during the clash.

She said: "They burnt a new police patrol van yesterday [Wednesday]. They accused us of taking sides; it is unfortunate that the monitoring section van that was donated to us was burnt. Our four men are in hospital now; they were shot."

"The divisional police officer

of Ilobu was among those who were shot; he was shot in his hand but thanks to God, they are all responding to treatment. They ambushed the policemen when they [police] attempted to broker peace."

Also, in a separate press conference, secretary of Ifon Orolu Board of Trustees, Comrade Jide Akinyooye, frowned on the attitude of the police during the clashes on Wednesday night and Thursday morning.

He alleged that only 16 policemen were dispatched to the two communities to maintain peace, adding that the deployed officers then kept their distance throughout their stay there.

Meanwhile, the state governor, Senator Ademola Adeleke, who spoke during his first interactive session with the people of the state, tagged, 'Ipade Imole,' in Osogbo, said, he had directed a joint security task force to maintain peace in the communities.

The governor, who said he had summoned leaders of the two communities to his office on the need to put a stop to the spate of killings and destructions, described the attacks as senseless.

He said: "I'm not happy with the development in Ilobu and Ifon. I was there this morning [Thursday] before coming around and

I told the leaders that I'm not happy with their conduct.

"Why will you be killing people because of land? This is very bad. I want to state it categorically that the government has taken over the disputed land."

He, therefore, warned perpetrators of the attacks to desist forthwith, adding that anyone caught would face the wrath of law.

He said: "I am warning anyone who wants to cause mayhem now to be careful. If it is sabotage, it will not work at all. These clashes are not helping anyone but rather chasing investors away to other states."

"It is sad that lives are be-

ing lost daily over what belongs to God and not man."

Governor Adeleke then called on kings, chiefs and community leaders of the two towns to call their subjects to order.

"It is not when government intervenes with force that people will see season on the need to be peaceful."

"A military deployment will be punitive to both communities that have failed to allow for peaceful resolution of the problem."

"Henceforth, I will not condone these senseless killings. The state government has taken over the disputed land in the area and anyone seen there will be dealt with appropriately."