

Kidnappers kill three persons, hold on to abducted monarch, demand N12m as ransom in Kogi

Kill APC ward chairman in Ondo after collecting N5m ransom

From Yekini Jimoh and Ha-
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THE gunmen rampaging Okoloke community in Yagba West Local Government Area, Kogi State, on Saturday, killed three persons and setting difficult conditions for the release of Pa. Oda James Ogunyanda, the deceased traditional ruler who was abducted from his palace on Thursday morning. Those killed on Saturday in Okoloke community included: two vigilantes who escorted the third victim, staff of Glo mobile to the company's telecommunications mast.

It was gathered that the bandits, who abducted the additional ruler, had ear-

lier requested N100million ransom in their first contact, have reduced the money to N12 million.

A source familiar with the story explained that in the course of negotiations, the bandits were told that their nonagenarian captive was on medication for a certain ailment, failure of which may jeopardise his health.

The hoodlums allegedly advised that his drugs should be packaged and delivered at a particular location for onward delivery to him.

The community was yet to meet the conditions when the bandits launched a fresh attack killing the three persons.

They encountered the gunmen, who immediately opened fire on them in the

bush.

A resident of the area, Olusegun Iselaye, broke the news of the killings on his Facebook page on Saturday. He also decried the lack of decisive action on insecurity in the area by government.

"We are heartbroken and outraged to report that just days after the kidnapping of our traditional ruler in Okoloke village, Yagba West, we have now lost three innocent lives to bandits' attacks in the same community.

"This violence is unacceptable and underscores the need for effective security measures.

"While we appreciate the efforts of Senator Karimi and his Kwara counterpart in raising the issue of insecurity in our region at the National

Assembly just days ago, the continued inaction on the ground is concerning.

"As of the last update, there has been no visible police presence in Okoloke, allowing these killings to occur. This lack of response is a failure and further traumatises the already fearful communities.

"This tragedy in Okoloke further highlights the flaws in the current security strategy in Yagba West. As we stated previously, the presence of soldiers has not brought the desired security and has instead, led to troubling issues, including extortion and harassment of the people.

"We call on the state government to recognise the gravity of this escalating crisis. The continued reliance on the current military de-

ployment is not working and has even created additional problem.

The chairman of the council area, Tosin Olokun, has reportedly visited the area, assuring them of the efforts to rescue the monarch and also bring the tide of attacks in the community to a stop.

Meanwhile, the Chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Ifon, Ondo State, Nelson Adepoiyi, abducted by gunmen while returning to his house last Monday, has been killed.

Adepoiyi was shot dead by the kidnappers after the payment of N5million ransom from the N100million demanded by his abductors, while the kidnappers also seized the ransom bearers and demanded N30million.

But, it was gathered that the abductors released the two ransom bearers unharmed, but shot dead the APC chairman before releasing the ransom bearers.

Confirming the incident, the Chairman of Ose Local Government Area, Kolapo Ojo, said Adepoiyi was killed by the kidnappers, but the other two people in their custody

were freed.

He expressed concern over insecurity in the area and the killing of Adepoiyi by his abductors, saying kidnapping was taking a new dimension in the area.

While commiserating with the family of the deceased, he called on the Federal Government to support the administration of Governor Lucky Aiyedatiwa in defeating the criminals tormenting the state.

He said, "While we are grateful that the two volunteers have now regained their freedom, it is saddening and painful that the life of Adepoiyi was cut short.

"The entire leadership and people of Ose Local Government mourn this tragic loss. We extend our heartfelt condolences to the family, friends and political associates of the late politician," he said.

Meanwhile, the state Commissioner of Police Commissioner, Wilfred Afolabi, stated that the police could not yet confirm the killing.

He added that special officers have been deployed to Ifon to investigate the reports circulating on social media.

