

# Gunmen kill Owu chief, three others

**Niyi Odeboode,  
Abeokuta**

**N**O fewer than four persons, including an Owu chief, Adedotun Sowole, died on Saturday, when gunmen invaded the venue of a meeting at Atan in Ado-Odo/Ota Local Government area of Ogun State.

Our correspondent gathered that the police had arrested 20 persons over the incident, which occurred at 10:30am.

Eyewitnesses said *baales* (village heads) and *obas* in Atan were awaiting the arrival of the Olowu of Owu, Abeokuta, Oba Olusanya Dosunmu, who was scheduled to meet with them when the incident happened.

Apart from Sowole, other people shot dead were Amos Taiwo, Alasi Olorunda and Adebayo Sowel, whose father was installed last year by the Olowu as the Baale of Iyana Iyesi, Ota.

The Olowu, last year installed 11 coronet *obas* amidst protests, especially by the Awori, who described the *oba's* action as an attempt to enslave them.

Investigation by our correspondent showed that Saturday's attack might be linked with the crisis that greeted the installation of the coronet *obas* last year.

As early as 9am, the Owu chiefs had started arriving at the Ansar-Ud-Deen Primary School, venue of the meeting.

About 11 gunmen, it was learnt, invaded the school at about 10:30am and shot

three people dead.

Eyewitnesses said Sowole was hit on the head with an axe. One of the Owu chiefs, Adedotun Owoyele, in an interview with our correspondent, alleged that the gunmen were youths from a community (name withheld).

According to him, as at 10:30am when the gunmen invaded the venue of the meeting, no policeman had arrived.

Owoyele said, "We were not armed because we did not expect anybody to attack us. We asked for police protection because of miscreants.

"They (the gunmen) emerged from a corner, about 11 of them, and started shooting our people. When we saw that four of us had been shot dead, we fled the place."

Condemning the incident, he said, "Those gunmen are resident in Atan here. If there were strangers, they must be

very few.

"The people that were shot dead were well known by the invaders. Only God saved those of us that are alive because the invaders know us too."

In a swift reaction, a chief from the accused community, who pleaded anonymity, absolved the community youths of blame over the incident.

He said, "Although we are not happy with what the Olowu did, our youths are law-abiding.

"They will never resort to lawlessness. *Baales* and *obas* installed by the Olowu should look elsewhere for their invaders."

The Police Public Relations Officer in the state, Mr. Olufemi Awoyale, confirmed the incident.

He also confirmed that four people died, adding that 20 people had been arrested.

## Court remands suspects for stealing palm oil

**Tunde Odesola, Osogbo**

**A**N Osogbo Magistrate's Court has remanded two suspects, Aliu Isa and Ajagbe Yakubu, for allegedly robbing one Alhaja Serifat Buhari of two kegs of palm oil.

The charge sheet read in court on Friday, said the suspects committed the offence on February 11, 2007, at 1am in Osuntedo village near Ejigbo.

Also, the suspects were accused of arming themselves with daggers while robbing Buhari.

Osuntedo is an agrarian community, whose indigenes are noted for extensive farming in cash crops, which include cocoa, oil palm and kola.

The pleas of both suspects were not taken. Magistrate of the court, Mr. Jide Falola, said his court lacked the jurisdiction to hear a case of armed robbery.

He adjourned the case to April 27, 2007 for mention just as he ordered that the suspects be remanded in prison custody.