

## NEWS

# Ijaw youths invade Ondo village, kill five

**Sunday Aborisade, Akure**

Some irate Ijaw youths suspected to be ex-militants, on Friday evening invaded Iju-Osun in the Irele Local Government Area of Ondo State and burnt parts of the town.

The youths, according to eyewitnesses, killed five people, razed four buildings and kidnapped the monarch, Oba Samuel Oyegbemi.

The Police Public Relations Officer in charge of the state command, Mr. Aremu Adeniran, who confirmed the incident, however said only two lives were lost, while the palace of the monarch and two other houses were torched.

Adeniran confirmed that the monarch, who he described as a very nice man, was abducted by the irate youths.

The police spokesman explained that the Ijaw youths were probably on a revenge mission following the discovery of the body of an ex-militant in Iju-Osun on Thursday.

He explained that the people of Iju-Osun could not account for the death of the ex-militant, hence the invasion of the town by the irate Ijaw youths.

He said, "Security has been beefed up to avert further loss of lives. Our men are there. We are making efforts to release the monarch. The man is good. No report of any clash was recorded before the discovery of the corpse in the town."

Our correspondent learnt that the invasion of the town by the ex-militant, followed

the mysterious death of a middle-aged Ijaw man, identified simply as Samuel in the town.

The man, who was from Arogbo Ijaw in Ese Odo Local Government, according to sources, was a father of one of the militants and had resided at Iju-Osun town for many years.

The son, whose identity could not be ascertained at press time, was said to have contacted his colleagues and in retaliation, arrived in the town on Friday in company with armed youths.

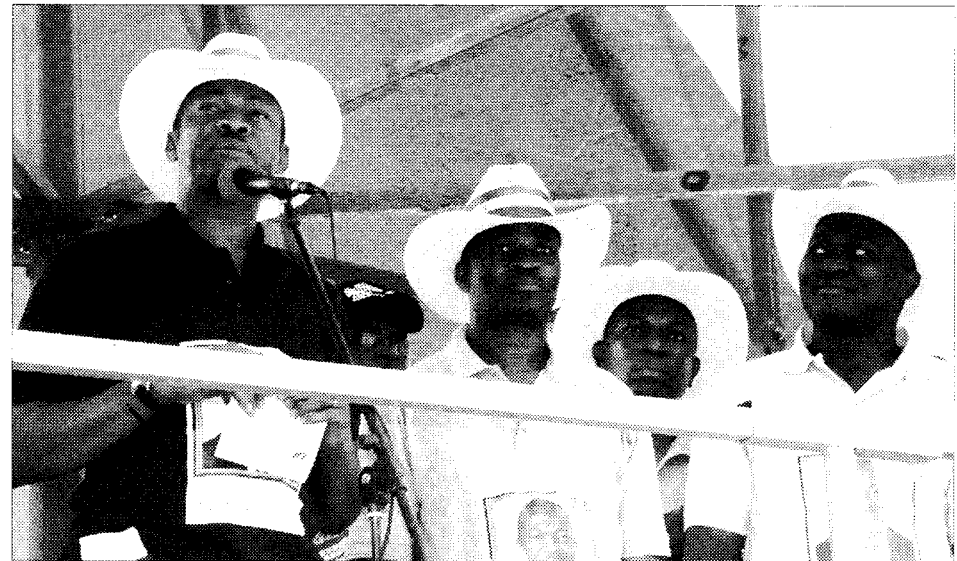
A high chief in the town, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, told reporters on Friday that the militants shot sporadically and later set several houses, including the palace of the Olughogho of Iju-Osun, ablaze.

Eyewitness said residents of neighbouring towns like

Ajagba, Akotogbo and other villages in the area had also fled their areas in anticipation

of possible invasion by the ex-militants. About six towns in the area have been deserted

as residents were said to be taking refuge at Ode-Irele and the state capital.



•L-R: Enugu State Governor, Mr. Sullivan Chime; his deputy, Mr. Sunday Onyebuchi; and the state chairman, Peoples Democratic Party, Mr. Vita Abba, during launch of Chime's campaign in Enugu State... on Friday

## Uneasy calm as court removes Ataoja of Osogbo

**Tunde Odesola, Osogbo**

After spending five months and a week on the throne, an Osogbo High Court, on Friday brought down the curtain on the reign of the Ataoja of Osogbo, Oba Jimoh Olanipekun, ordering him to vacate the throne immediately.

No sooner had Justice Yinka Aderibigbe read his judgement in a suit filed by the Gbaemu ruling house than an uneasy calm enveloped the palace of the

Ataoja.

The plaintiff, Alhaji Nasiru Oyeniyi, who is a member of the Gbaemu ruling house, filed the suit against the Osun State Government and 16 others, faulting the process that produced Olanipekun.

A former governor of Osun State, Prince Olagunsoye Oyinlola, had presented a staff of office to Olanipekun, a move which was greeted with a barrage of controversies with some ruling houses kicking against his choice.

The plaintiffs had filed an *ex-parte* motion and a motion on notice for an injunction, restraining all the defendants from appointing anybody as the Ataoja of Osogbo pending the hearing of the motion on notice and the suit.

On August 24, 2010, when the *ex-parte* motion came up for hearing, the court ordered that all the defendants be put on notice, while the case was subsequently adjourned till September 8, 2010 for hearing of the motion on notice.

But the state government went ahead to install Olanipekun, who is from the

the nomination of Jimoh Olanipekun to fill the vacant stool of the Ataoja of Osogbo through the purported Larooeye royal house of Osogbo during the pendency of the suit and the motion for interlocutory injunction is hereby set aside."

He added, "The selection of Olanipekun to fill the vacant stool of Ataoja of Osogbo by the kingmakers in the suit during the pendency of the suit and the motion for interlocutory injunction is hereby set aside. The approval and issuance of the instrument of office to Olanipekun as the Ataoja of Osogbo is hereby set aside."

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## Police recover bomb in Enugu, as