

time of 9 am because of the commencement of the environmental sanitation in government offices on Friday.

Unlike what obtained during his appearance before Magistrate Olalekan Ijiyode when the monarch came a few minutes late to the court and was ordered to remove his cap, he was early to the court of Magistrate Adewunmi Makanjuola.

Shortly before the commencement of the case, the monarch walked out

bench inside the court and his relatives frantically began to fan him, just as they pumped a blood pressure device tied to his left arm.

The registrar of the court, Mr. Bashiru Odegbemile, came into the courtroom, got a piece of paper, which he used to fan the monarch.

It is a taboo for Yoruba monarchs not to cover their heads in public but when tradition and the law conflict, the law overrules tradition.

Prosecution counsel,

Two killed, NYSC quarters, houses burnt in Anambra communal attacks

Emmanuel Obe, Awka

At least two people were killed and many others seriously wounded on Thursday night when armed men attacked the Nkputu community in Owerre-Ezukala, Orumba South Local Government Area of Anambra.

The attackers burnt many houses, including the National Youth Service Corps quarters that housed corps members posted to the community's secondary school.

The invaders burnt the school's library and the principal's office that housed

all the vital records of the school. The corpse of one of the deceased was found burnt in one of the destroyed houses, while the other deceased was ambushed on his way from Umunze, the local government headquarters, to his village.

His motorcycle and his corpse were burnt by his assailants.

The corps members, SATURDAY PUNCH gathered, were robbed of their valuables, while their official documents, including educational certificates, were destroyed in the burnt building.

Meanwhile, the Anambra State Police Command and

the army formation in state have moved in battalions of riot policemen and soldiers to stop the attacks.

The Police Public Relations Officer in the state, Mr. Emeka Chukwuemeka, told SATURDAY PUNCH that but for the intervention of the security agencies, the situation would have been worse.

"We were able to maintain peace and order, and we are maintaining 24-hour surveillance now," Chukwuemeka said, and confirmed that several people arrested in connection with the attacks had been taken to Awka.

James Ibori's trial begins in London, supporters besiege court

The money laundering case against a former governor of Delta State, James Ibori, began on Friday at a London court with a preliminary trial, which was witnessed by several of his supporters.

According to *TheWill*, an online news portal, hundreds

of Ibori's supporters had besieged the court on Friday afternoon to witness the commencement of his trial and show their support for the ex-governor.

Clad in 'Free Ibori' and 'Deltans want Ibori back home' T-shirts, some of the supporters claimed to have come all the way from Nigeria for the trial, while most claimed to be London-based.

Ibori is standing trial for allegedly misappropriating more than \$200m during his tenure as governor of the oil-rich Delta State.

However, the former governor has maintained his innocence, seeing his present circumstance as political persecution.

Appearing before Judge Rivli QC at midday, Ibori sported a dark blue suit and white shirt.

The lead prosecutor, M.S. Wass, who opened the hearing, explained that two trials were to be conducted against Ibori and asked that they be joined.

She requested the court to

handle the first matter in July and the second hearing in November.

After a short recess, the next hearing date was set for July 22, 2011 by 10am.

Ibori had previously appeared at the City of Westminster Magistrate's Court on April 22, 2011 and at the Southwark Crown Court on April 28, 2011. Both appearances had been via a video link.

The judge had in the last sitting, adjourned the matter and ordered that Ibori appear in person today (Friday).

Ibori's supporters, who took over the court gallery, had a little confrontation with the court security when they were asked to leave.

It wasn't until the security personnel threatened to use force that some of Ibori's supporters vacated the public gallery that was already overwhelmed by their number. At the end of the hearing, shouts of 'Ogidigborigbo' rent the air as the supporters enthusiastically waved back at Ibori when he acknowledged them with a wave.

close ranks and defend their children against all forms of social anomalies.

It stated that with the increase in the spate of child witches and wizards in Akwa Ibom and some other Northern states, Nigeria was not yet out of the woods.

The Executive Secretary of the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons and Other Related Matters (a parastatal under the Ministry of Justice), Mr. Simon Egede, said this after the release of the annual Global Report on Trafficking in Persons by the United States with the theme, 'The decade of delivery,' in which Nigeria was rated on tier one.

He said, "It is not yet *Uhuru*; when children are being stigmatised as witches and wizards in Akwa Ibom, Nasarawa and Taraba states, we are not yet out of the woods if education is not free, compulsory and accessible to all Nigerians.

"The conditions of the girl child in the South-Eastern part of the country, where baby factories are on the increase, require immediate attention of all stakeholders.

"We are currently developing an initiative to convoke a stakeholders' workshop in the South-East zone to develop a framework for an action to combat the incidence of baby factories in the zone."