

# Osun monarch feared dead as hoodlums torch palace

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THERE was confusion in Ilashe, a town in Obokun Local Government Area of Osun State on Wednesday night as some hoodlums allegedly invaded the palace of Loja of Ilashe, Oba A. Anibijuwon and set the place on fire.

The whereabouts of the *Kabiyesi* was unknown as of 11pm when this report was being filed.

Some residents who spoke with our correspondent on the telephone claimed that the hoodlums strangled the monarch to death before setting the palace on fire.

They expressed the fear the monarch who was having problem with his sight might have been killed in the inferno.

One of the residents who pleaded not to be named said, "We don't know why those who burnt the palace did so. But the palace was razed down and those people who did it strangled the *Kabiyesi* to death before setting the palace on fire. You know that our *Kabiyesi* was blind."

However, the Commissioner for Information, Mr. Sunday Akere, who confirmed the inferno to our correspondent, said he was not told that the monarch was killed.

He said that may be the monarch was injured but that he did not die.

Akere said, "There was a fire outbreak at the palace of Ilashe this evening and fire-fighters went and put it out. We heard that three young men went to

the palace and demanded to see the monarch but they were prevented from seeing him.

"But curiously there was a fire outbreak immediately they left the palace. Fire-fighters were sent there and they put out the fire. The *Kabiyesi* was not killed but may be he was injured during the fire outbreak."

He said that the state government in collaboration with security agencies were investigating the case to know what caused the fire and get those behind it arrested if it was a case of arson.

It will be recalled that the palace of the monarch of Oba Oke was set ablaze by hoodlums about a month ago during a communal clash between the people of the town and Oba Ile, a neighbouring community.

venue as a new owner colleagues exchanged pleasantries with her in apparent show of solidarity.

Immediately after the meeting, she quickly joined the SGF just as she did when the last meeting of the council was held two weeks ago.

As journalists ran after her, seeking her reaction to the industrial action embarked upon by private jet owners over new aviation charges, the embattled minister shouted "no comment" as she quickly jumped into the back seat of Anyim's waiting sport utility vehicle.

Before the vehicle took off with both government officials at the back seat, Supervising Minister of Education, Nyesom Wike, also joined them and displaced Anyim's security detail on the front seat.