

Police raid Ondo after cult murder

Oluwole Josiah, Akure

Police in Ondo have continued a week-long raid on Oka, in Ondo town, Ondo West Local Government Area, following the killing of a man by suspected cult members in the area.

Although the circumstance of the killing is still a matter the police are trying to unravel, several residents of the area have been in and out of police custody in respect of the murder.

Our correspondent gathered that the incident, which occurred last week after clashes by rival cult groups, had instilled panic in members of the area following repeated raids by the police who are bent on finding the culprits.

It was learnt that about six persons had so far been killed in recent times as a result of the bloody clashes.

The incessant arrest has resulted in residents deserting the area for fear of being picked up by the police.

An eyewitness, who identified himself simply as Segun, said the police began their raids immediately the incident happened and continued the raid on Wednesday.

He said, "They came to raid and arrest people on Wednesday, they also returned on Thursday morning and in the evening and arrested more people. This morning (Friday) they

have also raided the place picking up anybody they see."

Segun noted that it was unfair for innocent people to suffer as a result of the indiscriminate arrest, while the actual offenders were at large. But the Police Command in Ondo State had

denied indiscriminate arrest of residents.

Spokesman for the police, Mr. Wole Ogodo, said killings by cultists had become common in the state, stating that the police would not allow that to continue.

According to him, those who are complaining are

only looking for excuses to continue their nefarious activities.

Ogodo said, "As I speak to you, the raids are already paying off and the police have started retrieving vital information about the incident."

"Those who were arrested

and found not having anything to do with the killings have been released. We will soon come out with the whole report for people to see.

"Cultists have been killing people anyhow in Ondo and we cannot allow that to happen."

ICPC arraigns worker for collecting double salaries

Tunde Ajaja

The Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Commission has arraigned a member of staff in the Office of the Accountant-General of the Federation, Mr. Adotse Anthony, before an Abuja High Court for allegedly collecting double monthly salary to the tune of N353, 756.52.

In a statement made available to our correspondent on Thursday by the ICPC spokesperson, Folu Olamiti, Anthony was alleged to have manipulated records to fraudulently enrich himself through falsification of records.

Counsel to the ICPC, Gogodaye West, said the accused person falsified his identity and personnel records, which he used to do multiple registration on the Federal Government centralised payroll called Integrated Payroll and Personnel Information Systems.

The offence is punishable under ICPC Act 2000.

The IPPIS was recently introduced by the Federal Government to eliminate ghost workers and multiple payments.

After the 10-count charge was read to him by the court, Anthony pleaded not guilty.

The defence counsel, Una Matthew, asked for more time to study the charges and respond appropriately,

an application, which was not opposed by the prosecution counsel.

The presiding Judge, Justice S. Garba, adjourned the matter till October 2, 2014 for hearing.

Anthony, a pool staff member in the office of the AGF, was deployed in the Federal Ministry of Works and Education in 2009 and 2010 respectively during which he committed the

alleged offence.

The ICPC said, "The accused person allegedly used his insider knowledge of the workings of the IPPIS to override its security features, to fraudulently alter and rearrange the order of his name on the employment and transfer letters, and in the process created another identity for himself, thereby collecting double salaries which he was not entitled to."

Uduaghan tasks Immigration Service on illegal immigrants

Emmanuel Obe, Asaba

Delta State Governor Emmanuel Uduaghan has urged the Nigerian Immigration Service to fish out illegal immigrants in the state and deport them to their respective countries.

Uduaghan, who addressed a press conference on Friday at the Government House in Asaba, noted that there was unusual increase in the number of people coming into the state due primarily to the insecurity

problem in the Northern parts of the country.

He said in as much as Delta State would accommodate law-abiding citizens coming into the state, the government would not tolerate illegal immigrants with questionable mission.

He said, "There is an influx of people from other parts of the country into Delta State. So, in as much as they don't give us security challenge, we will manage the situation."

"But for those coming into Nigeria illegally, we have asked the Immigration Service to fish them out and send them back.

Those who are Nigerians should be properly organised."

The governor, however, said the people should not expect miracles from his administration even after spending eight years in office.

Uduaghan said, "There is no way this administration can construct all the roads in the state in eight years. It is not possible to do all the roads. But as we get funds, we will do the much we can."

He added that it was also not possible to rehabilitate all the 1,600 schools in the state before he vacates office in 2015.