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Robbers kill Imam, raid houses in Ogun

MAY 26, 2015 : OLALEYE ALUKO 5 COMMENTS

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Koleosho's residence

| credits: Olaleye Aluko

Armed robbers have attacked the Onihale area in the Ifo Local Government Area of Ogun State during which they raided houses and killed an Imam.

Our correspondent gathered that the Imam, Alhaji Isiaka Koleosho, was the Imam at the Onihale Central Mosque on Harmony Avenue in the area.

He was reportedly shot in the head by the robbers.

PUNCH Metro learnt that the gunmen, who were said to have stormed the area on motorcycles, attacked three community development areas.

Our correspondent gathered that on Tuesday, April 21, the robbers, at about 2am, stormed Opeyemi and Ifeoluwa CDAs, raiding houses. They later left for the Ire Akari CDA where the cleric was shot dead.

It was learnt that the robbers also raided the area on Monday, May 4.

When our correspondent visited the area on Saturday, a resident, who identified himself only as Alade, said the Imam might have been killed because the robbers did not get as much as they expected.

He said, "On that night, there were gunshots and screams around the mosque area. I was told they were about six men who came with guns. They robbed a school proprietor before reaching Imam's house.

"Later, one of his two wives ran to our house, saying they had killed the Imam. We were shocked. Why would the robbers shoot him? They went to another man's house, and asked him to 'cooperate' with them; otherwise he would be killed like the Imam."

When *PUNCH Metro* got to the Imam's house, his family declined any comment on the matter. It was gathered that Koleosho was buried the same day according to Islamic rites.

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Another victim of the robbery, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said he had taken his family away from the area until security was strengthened.

He said, "My house was robbed before the gang moved to Imam's compound. They came into my bedroom, and asked me and my wife to produce all our valuables. They did not spend more than five minutes. It was at about 2.30am.

"When they were done, they entered Imam's compound, and we heard gunshots. I knew tragedy had struck. Since that day, I left the area with my family. The robbery is still fresh on my mind because almost every day, I still wake up around 2am."

The chairman of one of the CDAs told our correspondent that the matter was reported at the Ifo Police Division, adding that the robbers had not stopped attacking the area.

He said, "I was also a victim of a robbery attack, because my house was raided by robbers in January, 2015. It is very unfortunate. We reported the matter to policemen at Ifo, and we know something will be done.

"One of the residents was caught recently with a gun, and he was handed over to the police. We urge the police to increase their patrols in our area."

The Ogun State Police Public Relations Officer, DSP Muyiwa Adejobi, said the police were investigating to know if it was a case of armed robbery or assassination.

He said, "The incident is true and the police are working to find a clue to the suspects. We cannot call it a case of armed robbery because the men did not take anything from their victim's house.

"They simply asked, 'Where is Alhaji, where is Alhaji?' When the police eventually arrest them, we will be able to determine their motive."

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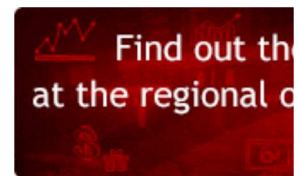


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