

Gunmen assassinate Kogi vigilante group's chairman

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Kogi State Governor Yahya Bello

Gbenga Odogun, Lokoja

The Chairman of the Vigilante Group of Egume community in Kogi State, Mr Attah Isah, has been assassinated by gunmen.

Our correspondent gathered that Isah was assassinated on Sunday at Efakwu-Egume in the Dekina Local Government Area of the state.

Sources close to the deceased's family informed *PUNCH Metro* that the assailants, who had trailed Isah's movement during the day, later confronted him in front of his house in the Efakwu area of Egume around 8pm

It was gathered that the deceased had earlier in the day gone to some branch executive of the Egume Ome Descendants' Union to inquire about an incident that made security agents at Anyigba in the local government area to extend an invitation to him.

The incident, according to a source, was sequel to allegations about the late chairman's involvement in mediation between the community and herdsmen, who had been wreaking havoc on farms in the area.

The gunmen were said to have opened fire on Attah at a close range, while he was relaxing in front of his house, and before his friends and family could run out after hearing the gunshots, the assailants had escaped on a standby motorcycle.

The former Chairman of the vigilante group in Egume, Mallam Attah Wada, aka Ukpono, was similarly assassinated while praying in front of his house in Egume on May 27, 2014, around 6.30pm.

In a related development, the Amana-Attah of Ojikpadala-Egume, Chief Isah Edime, who was the pioneer General Manager of *Radio Kogi* and the former producer of *Democracy in Action* at the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria, was also kidnapped from his house and assassinated on the same day that Wada was murdered.

Since that time, no arrest has been made in connection with the incidents by law enforcement agents in the state.

In his reaction, the National President, Egume Ome Descendants Union, Alhaji Mohammed Ibrahim, expressed shock over Isah's murder, describing it as inhuman and horrific, adding that the incident might have been perpetrated by enemies of the Egume community.

Confirming the incident to journalists on Tuesday in Lokoja, the Police Public Relations Officer in the state, DSP Williams Aya, said one Enemaku Isah of Egume, a junior brother to the slain vigilante group chairman, reported the incident.

According to Aya, Enemaku said the assailants came on a motorcycle, shot the victim twice and fled, adding that the deceased was rushed to the General Hospital, Eguma, where he was confirmed dead.

Aya said the corpse had been deposited in the mortuary for autopsy, adding that the police were making efforts to arrest the perpetrators.

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