

# We killed two, arrested 13 aides in Igboho's house raid, says DSS

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Oluwatosin Omojuyigbe,  
Segun Adewole, Olufemi  
Olaniyi and Solomon  
Odeniyi

**T**HE Department of State Services, on Thursday, paraded 12 of Sunday Igboho's followers, saying one other was being profiled.

The DSS said a joint team of security operatives had raided Igboho's residence early on Thursday based on an intelligence report.

Parading the suspects at the national headquarters of the secret police, its spokesman, Peter Afunaya, said the security team was engaged in a gun duel by nine men suspected to be Igboho's guards.

Afunaya stated, "A team of joint security operatives raided the residence of Sunday Adeyemo at Soka in Ibadan. This was based on intelligence that he had stockpiled arms in the place."

"On approach to his residence, the team came under heavy gun attack by nine men suspected to be Igboho's guards. Six were armed with AK-47 guns and three others with pump action rifles."

"In the course of the exchange, two of the armed men were gunned down, while the rest were subdued and arrested. Only one operative, who was shot by the assailants in his right hand, sustained injury. He has, however, received medical attention and is very stable."

"The gun duel, which lasted an hour, offered Igboho the chance to escape. Sunday Adeyemo, aka Sunday Igboho, is now on the run."

Those arrested are: Abdulateef Ofeyagbe; Amoda Babatunde, aka Lady K; Tajudeen Erinoyen, Diakola Ademola, Abideen Shittu, Jamiu Noah, Ayobami Donald, Adelabe Usman, Oluwapelumi Kunle, Raji Kazeem, Taiwo Opeyemi and Bamidele Sunday.

Afunaya added that the team searched the house and subsequently recovered seven AK-47 assault rifles, three pump action guns, 30 fully charged AK-47 magazines, 5,000 rounds of 7.62mm ammunition, five cutlasses, one Jack knife, one pen knife, two pistol holsters, a pair of binoculars, a wallet containing \$5, local and international driving licences in his name, ATM cards, a German residence permit No. YO2N6K1NY bearing his name; two whistles, 50 cartridges and 18 walkie-talkies.

Others are three charm jackets/traditional body armour, two laptops, one Toshiba and one Compaq laptops and his passport and those of many others.

Afunaya added that five of the AK-47 assault rifles recovered from his residence were snatched from Nigeria Customs and Immigration personnel at Idi Iroko, Ogun State.

Afunaya explained that Igboho and his group, in the guise of campaign for self-determination, had become well-armed and determined to undermine public order.

He added the arrests and seizures were a confirmation of a grand plan by Igboho and his cohorts to wage a violent insurrection against the Nigerian state.

Some of his aides had said the invasion, which they alleged claimed the lives of five occupants of the house, was carried out by soldiers and operatives of the

Department of State Service.

The Nigerian Army, however, said it had no hand in the attack.

One of our correspondents, who visited Igboho's house, observed blood stain on the floor in front of the main building. Windows of some vehicles and buildings on the premises were shattered.

There was thick blood clot in one of the chalets, an indication that someone might have been killed or badly injured, and one of Igboho's aides said the victim, who he identified simply as Alfa, was praying inside the building when he was shot in the head and died on the spot.

A resident of the building said although government agencies had been monitoring Igboho's movements before now, the attack might not be disconnected to the Yoruba Nation rally scheduled to hold in Lagos on Saturday.

The Convener of the Igangan Development Advocates, Mr Oladiran Oladokun, who visited

the scene of the attack, told one of our correspondents that the invasion of Igboho's residence was an attack on the entire Yoruba people.

One of Igboho's aides, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said, "Chief surprised every one of us, because the attackers were everywhere, but he escaped. The assailants came around 1.30am, scaled the fence and opened fire."

"I think the instruction they were given was to kill every living thing sighted on the premises. A lady was the one directing them. She was calling occupants of the house by their names. That is to show that an insider gave them the information they relied on."

"They took away about N3m from his (Igboho's) room as well as his jewellery."

Another occupant of the house, who also spoke on condition of anonymity, said, "The assailants killed five persons and took away their corpses. Some ladies, who are wives of chief's aides, were also taken away. They took away

the CCTV box so that we won't play back

**Bring perpetrators to justice, YCE tells FG**

Meanwhile, the Yoruba Council of Elders and Asefinifere leader, Chief Ayo Adebajo, slammed the President, Major General Muhammadu Buhari (ret.), for the attack on the home of the Yoruba Nation agitator.

The YCE expressed concern about the invasion of Igboho's home.

The Secretary-General of the YCE, Dr Kunle Olajide, who spoke with one of our correspondents in Ibadan, said the group was concerned about the incident.

He urged the Federal Government to investigate the attack and bring those behind it to justice very quickly.

Olajide stated, "It is unimaginable that Sunday Igboho's home was so viciously attacked. Sunday Igboho is not violating any law of the land. There is freedom of movement and freedom of association in a

democracy.

"The Yoruba Council of Elders is very disturbed by this. Much as we are not backing any secessionist and self-determination agenda for now, because we believe this country can still be salvaged, but reactions from authorities continue to show us that the government is insensitive to what the people are saying."

**Adebajo slams Buhari**

On his part, Adebajo said from all indications, the assault on Igboho's home was sponsored by the government and described it as an attack on the Yoruba.

The 93-year-old stated, "It is a government sponsored attack from all indications. It is unfortunate, particularly for the Yoruba."

"Mr President has taken us back to the Abacha regime. It was the same they did to Alfred Rewane, Gen Alani Akinrinade, Chief Abraham Adesanya and many others, including members

of NADECO. I have said before that this government is a tyrannical government."

When asked if Igboho did not deserve to be arrested due to his opposition to Fulani herders, Adebajo said if that was the reason why he was being attacked, then it showed that the government was partial.

**Police warn against Lagos rally**

Meanwhile, the Lagos State Police Command has said it will not allow any rally in the state under any guise.

The state Commissioner of Police, Hakeem Odumosu, warned organisers of the planned Yoruba Nation rally and their followers to stay off the streets of Lagos, adding that anyone caught would be dealt with according to the law.

Odumosu said intelligence reports available to the police indicated that some people had perfected plans to infiltrate the protesters and cause more mayhem in the state.

"Lagos State cannot afford to experience any security lapse, breakdown of law and order, and threat to public peace at the moment, considering the negative effects and reoccurring agencies of the October 2020 violent #EndSARS crisis that led to massive destruction of public and private facilities, while some police personnel paid the supreme price," he said.

**Igboho suspends rally**

Meanwhile, Igboho has suspended the Yoruba Nation rally scheduled to hold in Lagos on Saturday.

Igboho, who spoke to the BBC News Pidgin, stated that the rally had been suspended.

His words come after a statement by the umbrella body of Yoruba self-determination groups, Ilana Omo Oodua, declared that the rally would hold as scheduled.

The statement was signed by its leader, Emeritus Professor. Banji Akintoye, and made available to journalists by his Communications Manager, Mr Maxwell Adeleye.

"We want to confirm again that the Pro-Yoruba Nation rally scheduled to hold on Saturday, July 3, in Lagos will proceed as scheduled," the statement read in part.

**Zulum in Niger, discusses Borno refugees' repatriation with President Bazoum**

Dogara Bitrus, Maiduguri

**B**ORNO State Governor, Prof Babagana Zulum, is in Niger Republic on the invitation of President Bazoum Muhammadu.

Bazoum had on Thursday hosted Zulum alongside the Governor of the Diffa region in Niger Republic, Isa Lameen; as well as Senator Abubakar Kyari and the Speaker of Borno State House of Assembly, Abdulkarim Lawan, to a closed door meeting in Diffa.

The meeting focused on the repatriation of Nigerian refugees, who fled communities in parts of northern Borno State since 2014 as a result of attacks by Boko Haram.

The meeting held soon after Zulum and Lameen had received Bazoum at the Tandja Momadou Airport in Diffa.

Diffa is located within close proximity to some communities in northern Borno, which share land

borders with Niger Republic. The governments and citizens of both countries have been collaborating on security and management of refugees, who mostly fled from Mobbar, Monguno and other local government areas in northern Borno to Diffa.

Zulum, who spoke to journalists shortly after the meeting, said, "The meeting is very fruitful; we have taken a number of decisions, which include the repatriation of Borno citizens back to our communities. These people have been in Niger in the last six years. With significant improvement regarding our security situation, our people are now looking forward to returning to their communities."

"We will work with all relevant institutions to ensure the safe and dignified return of our citizens. We shall do everything possible within our reach to safely resettle our people within the shortest possible time."



• L-R: Associate Partner, Technology, Phillips Consulting, Jason Ikegwu; Managing Director, Robert Taiwo; Chairman, Foluso Phillips; Minister of Interior, Mr Rauf Aregbesola; Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Interior, Dr Shuaib Belgore; and Partner, Strategy and Operations Transformation, Phillips Consulting, Omorinsola Sofola, during the visit of Phillips Consulting officials to the Minister in Abuja... on Thursday. Photo: Phillips Consulting

## States drive away mining investors with illegal levies, taxes – Osinbajo

Stephen Anghulu, Abuja

**V**ICE-PRESIDENT Yemi Osinbajo has condemned state governments that impose illegal fees, taxes and levies on licensed mining companies, warning that such actions serve as disincentive to prospective investors in the sector and jeopardise the Federal Government's efforts to deepen the mining industry.

Osinbajo said this on Thursday in his address at the maiden edition of the strategic engagement on sustainable mining titled: 'Resurrecting our Buried Prosperity'.

The Senior Special Assistant to the Vice-President on Media and

Publicity, Laolu Akande, disclosed this in a statement titled: 'Govts, Communities Collaboration will be a Game-changer for Nigeria's Mining Sector'.

The Vice-President said, "Some state governments, in a bid to shore up their revenues, impose illegal fees, taxes, and levies on foreign and local licensed mining companies and operators."

"Enforcement of these taxes often leads to the frequent arrests and harassment of licensed miners and their workers, and closures of mining sites. This happens frequently."

"Regrettably, such actions by state governments constitute a major disincentive to prospective

investors in the sector and invariably jeopardise the efforts of the government to deepen the mining industry in Nigeria."

"There is no way this will ever benefit the majority of our people." He also lamented the spate of insecurity in resource-rich communities as rival groups struggle to control access.

Osinbajo stated, "Then, there are the huge security concerns that always develop in the struggle for the control of mineral resources in poorly regulated, unregulated, or ungoverned spaces."

"Almost invariably, these situations lead to criminal activities and particularly, the proliferation of weapons and armed groups."

## Obiano predicts 90% win for Soludo in gov poll

Tony Okafor, Awka

**T**HE Anambra State Governor, Willie Obiano, has said the candidate of the All Progressives Grand Alliance in the November 6 governorship poll, Prof Chukwuma Soludo, will secure up to 90 per cent of the total votes that will be cast.

Obiano stated this on Thursday in Awka, the state capital.

"Leaders of opposition parties in the state will not only vote overwhelmingly, but also campaign vigorously for the candidate of APGA in the November 6 gubernatorial election in the state," he said.

The governor stated that

he was confident that Soludo would secure up to 90 per cent of votes because of the "immense popularity of his nomination among Nigerians, who want the best for Nigeria, starting with Anambra State."

Obiano said, "All Progressives Congress leaders across the nation are among the almost uncountable number of Nigerians, who have been congratulating the people of Anambra State on Soludo's emergence as the APGA gubernatorial candidate last Wednesday."

"All my phones have been buzzing ceaselessly. None of my four telephones can take text or WhatsApp messages any more."

There are too many messages in the inbox of each of my personal and official email addresses. It is all about Soludo."

"The messages have been coming from development partners, the organised private sector, bishops, clerics, market union leaders, professional associations, traditional rulers, town unions, students' bodies, two former presidents, numerous former state governors, academics, writers, ndi Anambra in the Diaspora, National Assembly members, heads of federal and international agencies, people with physical disabilities, petty traders and so on."