

Gunmen seize Kogi monarch in vehicle, demand N30m

• Bandits kill Bauchi businessman resisting kidnap, another attempt foiled

Gbenga Odogun and
Armstrong Bakam

A first class traditional ruler in the Ajaokuta Local Government Area of Kogi State, the Adogun of Eganyi, Alhaji Mohammed Adembe, was on Tuesday kidnapped by yet-to-be-identified gunmen on the Okene - Adogo Road.

The kidnap of the royal father occurred barely three days after the abduction of the Managing Director of AZECO Pharmaceutical Company, AbdulAzeez Obajimoh, at Ozuwaya, in Okene, Kogi State.

During the abduction of the pharmacist, one Habeeb Anda was killed and two others injured.

An indigene of Eganyi, who spoke to journalists on phone, said the traditional ruler, who was alone in his car, left Okene town around 4pm on his way to Eganyi community, but was abducted between Ebiya and Eganyi by hoodlums suspected to be kidnappers.

According to him, the kidnappers around 1pm on Wednesday called the family of the monarch and demanded a ransom of N30m.

The state Police Public Relations Officer, Mr William Ayah, confirmed the kidnap, adding that the command had deployed a special squad to trail the abductors.

He called on the public to assist the police with information to enable security agents to rescue the royal father.

In a related development, gunmen suspected to be kidnappers have killed a 40-year-old man, Tasiu Tilde, while attempting to kidnap him in Tilden Fulani, about 100 kilometres from Bauchi.

PUNCH Metro learnt that the deceased, popularly called Mai Kemis, was in his pharmacy when the gunmen attacked him on Tuesday.

A witness, who did not want to be identified, said the hoodlums invaded the area and shot sporadically, causing pandemonium as people scampered for safety.

"It was in the process that Tasiu was shot and killed," he added.

The Bauchi State Police Public Relations Officer, Ahmed Wakil, confirmed the incident in a telephone interview with journalists on Wednesday.

Wakil, a Superintendent of Police, said the assailants tried to take their victim away, but he resisted, adding that they shot him in the chest several times.



• Adembe

He said, "A good Samaritan put a distress call through to our patrol team in the area. They immediately mobilised to the scene of the incident, but before they got there, the suspected kidnappers had fled, leaving their victim in a

pool of blood.

"The patrol team immediately took him to the nearest Toro General Hospital, where on arrival, a medical doctor on duty certified him dead. Investigation is ongoing to apprehend the suspects."

The police spokesman said the gunmen made another attempt in Tudun Danbiram, in the same Tilden Fulani village, around 1am, when they forced themselves into the compound of a resident, trying to gain access to his main room.

He said a resident made a distress call to the police as some members of the multi-security task force were immediately drafted to the area.

Wakil said the police engaged the bandits in a gun duel, during which some of them were wounded, but managed to escape.

Fans attack police as command parades heavily-tattooed artiste, King of Madness, as suspect

Samson Folarin

THE Lagos State Police Command has arrested an artiste, who identified himself as *King of Madness*.

The artiste, who was among 1,320 suspects paraded by the state Commissioner of Police, Hakeem Odumosu, on Wednesday, said he was arrested after some policemen stopped the Uber he boarded on his way to a show at Lekki around 10.45pm.

He said, "They told me that I was being taken to meet a DPO. I just saw myself here this morning. I still don't understand what's happening."

He stated that no incriminating material was found on him, adding that the policemen gave him permission to make a video while they frisked him.

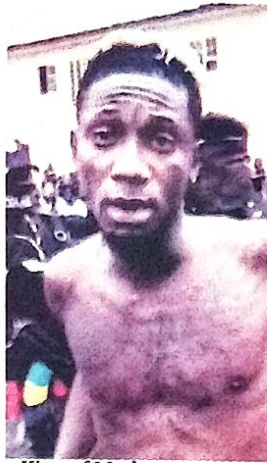
"My identity looks like that of a criminal, but I'm an artiste, not a cultist," Uche said, as he took off his shirt to reveal his body covered in tattoos.

"My mummy used to tell me that there's a way a book will be too dirty that you won't be able to touch it let alone identify its content. They are judging me by my appearance," he added.

The singer wondered why he was arrested alone while the Uber driver was allowed to go.

Some fans of the artiste, who expressed anger at his arrest on Facebook, berated the police for judging him by his appearance.

One Julian Anyanwu said, "They should free him. His name is Uche, aka Suruche. He's an artist. Right from our secondary school days, he likes acting crazy but isn't one."



• King of Madness

Another user, Nwokede Mary, wrote, "They should leave the guy. He is Innocent, what did he do. Suruche01 that is his Instagram handle. It is very clear he is not a thief. Na crime to get tattoo. is the guy profession. You don't expect him to dress like a pastor. this is no excuse. Where is it written that you can't have tattoos and tie your hair. They should leave this guy's trying to provide for themselves and go for the main criminal."

One Owuoye Ademola-Oba claimed that the suspect was well known in the Ikotun area of Lagos.

"He drives a Toyota Solara and drives so crazy around the neighborhood. Even the police in that axis knows him well. He's an artiste!" he added.

Another fan, Ekeh Richard, wrote, "I listened to his interview; he communicates well and fluent. His only offense is tattoos but is having tattoos an offense? Nigeria police sef."