

## Police killed three of our members, injured 12 in Sokoto, Shi'ites allege

Godwin Isenyo, Kaduna

**T**he Islamic Movement in Nigeria, better known as 'Shi'ite', alleged on Friday that the men of the Sokoto State Police Command killed three of its members in the state.

The President, Media Forum of the IMN, Ibrahim Musa, stated this in a statement titled, 'Police lied, they killed three, injured 12 in unprovoked attack on Ashura in Sokoto,' released in Kaduna on Friday.

According to the statement, in addition to the killing of the three members, 12 others were also injured during the procession.

The sect dismissed the claim by the police that "neither a shi'ite member nor anybody was killed or injured."

The group gave the names of those allegedly killed to include Bello Muhammad Illela, Imrana Umar Yabo and Hasan Abubakar Sokoto, claiming that 12 others were seriously injured and were being treated by the Islamic Movement.

The IMN called on the police in Sokoto State to own up to the alleged killing with the view of paying 'blood ransom' as prescribed by Islamic Shari'a and offer apologies to the public

The statement read in part, "The attention of the Islamic Movement in Nigeria has been drawn to a mischievous press statement issued by the Sokoto State Police Command, claiming that 'neither a shi'ite member nor anybody was killed or injured,' after policemen without provocation attacked Ashura mourners in Sokoto who were about to disperse, firing teargas canisters and live ammunition on Thursday, 19 August, 2021.

"Even though the police command in Sokoto claimed it acted professionally in quelling what it said was a clash between brothers and sisters of the Islamic Movement and

some Area Boys in Sokoto, it lied to the public, as if being transparent in its operations is not an act of professionalism.

"Firstly, there wasn't any clash that warranted the intervention of the police in the first place. Probably that was what some security agents had planned and hoped for, but it never happened. The Ashura mourning procession started from Trade Fair on Kano Road; passed

through NNPC to Mahmud Gumi road and ended at Madam Karo peacefully without any incident. It was while the closing prayer was being said that the police started firing live bullets at the mourners.

"Secondly, the Islamic Movement has in its possession the pictures of those killed and injured, which will be released to the public, to discern who the liar is in the killing of innocent citizens who came out to

exercise their constitutional rights of freedom of association and religion during Ashura commemoration anniversary."

The IMN said similar Ashura processions were held across the country, in various state capitals and major towns, including the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja without reports of violence and breach of peace, wondering why Sokoto's case was different.

## We've solution to Nigeria's problems, give us a chance, traditionalists beg Buhari

Daud Olatunji, Abeokita

**T**raditionalists in Ogun State have appealed to the President, Major General Muhammad Buhari (retd.), to allow them tackle insecurity and poverty in the country through the traditional means.

The Oluwo Ifa of Egba, Chief Ifagbeminiyi Baoku, said this on Friday during the 2021 'Isese Day' held in Abeokuta, the Ogun State capital.

The 'Isese Day' is celebrated every August 20 and was set aside as special worship day for traditional religion worshippers to celebrate their deities. The Oluwo Ifa of Egband, during the celebration, argued that the crisis the country was facing was due to negligence of the guidelines given by the oracle.

Baoku said all it required for Nigeria to overcome its numerous challenges was for the oracles to be consulted and sacrifices offered.

He said, "We have solutions to the problem facing the country. All we need to do is to consult the oracle and make necessary sacrifices.

"Government has been sidelining us; they don't know we are the one that can help in solving the problems.

"Traditional religion is rooted in some guidelines that if you follow them diligently, we will not be facing problem we are facing."

The Oluwo Ifa, however, appealed to Governor Dapo Abiodun to declare August 20 as public holiday so as to be able to carry out 'rituals' in commemoration of the 'Isese Day.'

While appealing to the governor to give importance to the worship of oracle in the state, Baoku said worshipping of Ifa was not evil.

Also, the Chairman of the Isese Parapo Egba, Ifaniaki Amosun, said the celebration was to bring traditionalists together.

He added, "All governmental portfolio in the country have been voted for by all the religions in the country but, after they have been voted for, they start discriminating

one religion from the others.

"Every year, the governor selects a particular day to go and worship with the Christians and also a day to worship with the Muslims. Why are we always exempted from this?"

"There should also be a day selected to worship with us, the traditionalists as well. We want our government to look into this as well as the Minister of Culture to help us on this."

Those present at the celebration included the Baba Isese of Egband, Prof. Ayinde Salami; the Ojubono of Egband, Chief Onifade Ogundele and some traditional rulers in the state.

## Fayemi recalls provost suspended over college fumigation

Abiodun Nejo, Ado Ekiti

**E**kiti State Governor, Dr Kayode Fayemi, has lifted the suspension order on the Provost, College of Health Sciences and Technology, Ijero Ekiti, Dr Olajumoke Adebayo.

The recall followed the report of the probe panel constituted by the governor to look into the remote and immediate causes of the fumigation exercise carried in the school by men of the Federal Fire Service which resulted in hospitalisation of some students in May.

Adebayo lauded Fayemi and the Prof. Kehinde Oluwadiya-led Governing Council of the institution for her reinstatement 10 weeks after the fumigation exercise, which

disrupted smooth running of activities in the college.

She also restated "commitment to improvement in the academic quality in the college and realisation of the much-desired plan to upgrade the institution to a polytechnic.

The provost, according to a statement on Friday by the Public Relations Officer, Enoch Akintayo, titled, 'COHESTI provost lauds Fayemi, governing council, restates commitment to proposed upgrade to polytechnic status, improved academic standard, increase in IGR', spoke during a meeting at the school.

Adebayo lauded the college's Affiliate Committee for efforts towards increasing the institution's internally generated revenue with a view to making it self-sustaining.