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Land speculators terrorise Ogun community, 2 killed, 4 injured

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BY OUR REPORTER ON MARCH 19, 2015

SOUTH-WEST MAGAZINE

FROM SEGUN OLATUNJI, ABEOKUTA

Sound sleep has now eluded residents of Adesan Olu in Mowe, Obafemi Owode Local Government Area of Ogun State, due to the fear of armed land speculators who invade the community at will.

Penultimate Friday's invasion of the community during which two persons were killed and four others injured, has remained fresh in the minds of the residents. Suspected hoodlums allegedly hired by land grabbers visited terror on the residents when they stormed the area shooting sporadically.

It was gathered that the hoodlums initially attacked Ogunrun, a neighbouring community wielding guns, machetes and other dangerous weapons in search of a popular land speculator identified as Makinde. When they got wind of the escape of their target to the neighbouring Adesan Olu, they trailed him to the community.

But when they arrived the community, they were disappointed and infuriated to have discovered that Makinde had taken refuge with the men of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad. The standoff between the hoodlums and the SARS continued until an exchange of gunfire erupted.

In the ensuing melee, two residents of the community were hit by stray bullets while four others sustained serious injuries.

One of the victims, Mrs Risikat Taiwo, a grocery seller, said she was shot when she attempted to rescue her little daughter: "I was inside my shop attending to some customers when suddenly I saw people running in different directions and due to fear, I hurriedly locked up my shop.

"As I was locking up my shop, some of my customers also ran to hide in my shop but due to fear, I left my daughter who was playing outside. When I realised that my daughter was outside, I went back to pick her and as I was doing that, I was shot."

Another victim, Mr. Kolawole Akinsola also escaped death by the whiskers: "I was just coming from office when I found myself at the centre of the fracas. I was running to a nearby building and I never knew I had been shot. All I

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noticed was that, as I was running I could not run faster any more. Blood then started gushing out of my chest and palm. Suddenly, everything went dark and I only woke up in the hospital."

Mrs. Waitat Olatoye, another victim had just returned from the mosque where she had gone to say her Jumat prayers and was relaxing inside her shop when she felt something suddenly penetrate her stomach. She collapsed and passed out. She regained consciousness in the hospital where she was informed by doctors who battled to save her life that she was hit by a stray bullet.

The Baale of Adesan Olu, Chief Tajudeen Adesan Olu, appealed to the state government and the police to come to the rescue of the residents to save them from the land grabbers and speculators who turned the area to a battle ground: "I was inside my palace when some residents rushed to inform me that some hoodlums had invaded the community.

"Immediately, I headed to Mowe Police Station to report the incident. When I got to Transformer Junction, I met the policemen in their patrol vehicle going to the scene of the incident. That was how I went back home believing that they would restore peace to the community.

"Few hours later, I started receiving phone calls that the place had become tense. Before I knew what was happening, they had brought four people who were shot to my palace in the police vehicle and I asked that they should be taken to hospital immediately. Unfortunately, when the doctor at the hospital could not remove the bullets, we had to take them elsewhere to get the bullets out."

The state Police Public Relations Officer, Muiyiwa Adejobi, declined to speak on the incident. He said that the matter was already being handled by the Force CID in Lagos.

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