

WANEY'S LAST MOMENTS

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Identifies corpse

Special Adviser to Governor Nyesom Wike on Amnesty Matters, Sir Ken Chinda, visited the 6 Division of the Nigerian Army, Port Harcourt, during the display of the remains of the criminals for public view. Chinda, who chaired the State Amnesty programme that promised amnesty for the warlord and his boys on October 5, 2016, regretted that Waney acted the part of the proverbial stubborn fly that followed the corpse to the grave.

"When we had the interface, we told them that the amnesty is not a cover; that, if they go against the terms of the amnesty, they will face the law," Chinda said. "We are happy and commend the gallantry Army and its sister agencies. Nobody, who has accepted amnesty, should go back to crime. We will continue to have zero tolerance for criminality and cultism. With the development, there will be total peace in ONELGA now."

Role of local vigilance group, OSPAC

ONELGA Security, Peace and Advisory Committee (OSPAC), played a pivotal role in bringing down Don Waney. The local vigilance group, the brainchild of the council's caretaker committee chairman, Barr. Osi Olisa was set up to tackle security challenges, which had overwhelmed the LGA for several years.

Saturday Sun learnt that some members of the group were former members of Don Waney's gang and as such, were able to confront him because they knew how notorious he was.

Don Waney, had tried to eliminate the threat posed by the vigilance group, by waging an incessant war against the outfit, had

some of its members killed at will and once launched a personal attack on Olisa.

OSPAC, led by Maxwell Ahiake, an "Associate Professor of Mysticism" launched an audacious counterattack against Don Waney on November 19, 2017, in conjunction with personnel of the Joint Military Task Force and the Department of State Service (DSS). Like a ghost that defies death, Waney escaped the attack though with bullet wounds while 11 members of his gang were killed in the ensued fierce gun battle.

The army took over his property after the raid.

Reaction of a bereaved husband

His death continues to evoke a sigh of relief from relatives of the New Year killings. While his death cannot bring back to life scores of victims he dispatched to their early graves, their relatives are nonetheless happy all the same, if not for anything but for the end of his inglorious reign.

Bright Nwokocha, who lost his wife, Joy, in the 2018 New Year massacre is still brimming with resentment. "They killed my wife and shot my daughter and they thought it will be well with them?" he asked rhetorically. "Their punishment has just begun. We all need peace and God will ensure that the blood of my wife and those of other innocent persons murdered are accounted for and bring peace to ONELGA."

Return home, ONELGA boss begs fleeing indigenes

The caretaker chairman of ONELGA, Barr. Olisa in an interview with *Saturday Sun* implored natives who had fled their homes

in terror to return home.

"What has happened is a demonstration of the commitment of the Governor of Rivers State, Chief Nyesom Wike, to the security of the state," he insisted. "With the killing of the cultist, we can now face development. The people of Omoku are now celebrating."

He went on: "The major challenge we are facing outside this insecurity (which has been taken care of) is the issue of unemployment. When youths are not engaged they join cults, that is what resulted in the challenge we had. We will work to remove the youths from the streets so we will not go back to this situation."

Olisa also disclosed that OSPAC, would be reformed, adding that the main cause of security lapses in the locale has been exterminated. "OSPAC is part of the society and it has to grow along. But, it will be reformed. We will not remove it because we want to make ONELGA safe", he added.

Some ONELGA members who spoke to *Saturday Sun*, with a strict request not to have their names mentioned, observed that the late terror king made a fortune out of his criminal activities.

Obi Nelson, a peace advocate gave a fuller portrait of the fallen criminal. His summation of the "Rise and Fall of Don Waney" attributed reign to the roaring success of his criminal venture, the reason many boys, who did not have a job, quickly keyed into his criminal activities of kidnapping, oil bunkering and sundry violent crimes.

Waney at his peak commanded numerous combatant "soldiers" armed with sophisticated arms and ammunition who could carry out heinous and devastating operations and go scot-free, Nelson said.

Nelson unravelled the conundrum further, with a claim that late kingpin once told him the source of his Don Waney nickname: a Jamaican action movie.

"Aside the two goons gunned down alongside him, his other henchmen in Don Waney's bar-

rack, have been declared wanted as we speak."

Nelson warned that the deadliest member of the gang is still at large: Waney's immediate younger brother, popularly known as Obataosu.

"He knows quite well where they prepare their jazz (charms), the things used and how to go about the things needed for sacrifice," said Nelson.

According to him and other sources, Obataosu was the coordinator of the New Year Eve massacre across four communities in Omoku and its environs. Obataosu was aided in the crossover attack by King Kong, another dreaded member of the gang, who was shot dead in the Army-DSS joint operation.

Speaking further, Nelson said Don Waney went after political enemies, irrespective of party affiliation, especially those troubling or disobeying his orders. "He single-handedly chose who became youth leader or Community Development Committee Chairman, within and outside Omoku. Prominent politicians who could not withstand him fled Omoku and the LGA. Those who could dance to his tune stayed."

"Don Waney is a real don, a traditional ruler for that matter. In fact, he had already been given the title before he was said to have embraced the state government amnesty. His title was 'Eze Onyirimba I' of Ogbaland. That title was given to him in 2016, not without regard to his antecedents."

"While alive, he made millions of naira daily from multinational oil companies, from oil bunkering and was heavily being protected by security agencies. His products were sold to many filling stations. He made close to N20 million daily from oil bunkering. The kind of mayhem he perpetrated in ONELGA can never be healed because of most of the important persons he eliminated. He sent many families into perpetual hardship. So how can the wounds be healed?"



WANEY WITH HIS WIVES AND KIDS

