

Kagoro killings: Death toll rises to 34, 200 houses burnt

• 2 military personnel among casualties

From **Noah Ebije**,
Kaduna

DEATH toll from killings in Kagoro, Kaura local government area of Kaduna State has risen to 34, just as several people were injured, and 200 houses and many shops burnt.

Terrorists, penultimate Sunday, attacked residents of Kagoro, killing them and burning their houses.

To this end, the State government imposed a 24-hour curfew on the local government and the neighbouring local government of Jama'a.

A statement by the State Commissioner for Internal Security and Home Affairs, Samuel Aruwan, yesterday, said: "Security agencies have reported to the Kaduna State Government that after search operations and detailed checks, 34 people have been confirmed dead following Sunday's attack in Kaura local government area.

"Four locations were attacked by unidentified assailants: Tsonje, Agban, Katanga and Kadarko, all within Kagoro Chiefdom of Kaura LGA.

"Two military personnel were among the 34 killed, with local residents making up 32 casualties.

"Seven people were injured and are receiving treatment. One Mrs Abigail Joshua from Adan community, is currently missing.

"Furthermore, over 200 houses and 32 shops were burnt in the attack. Three vehicles and 17 motorcycles were vandalised.

"Condemning the attack in the strongest terms, Governor Nasir El-Rufa'i expressed his grief at the feedback, and sent condolences to the families of the locals killed.

"He prayed for the repose of their souls as he wished the injured quick recovery.

"The governor also consoled with the Military High Command, and the families of the military personnel who paid the ultimate price in the line of duty during this attack. The governor offered prayers for the repose of their souls.

Bamise: BRT driver, Ominnikoron, faces trial for rape, murder

By **Lukman Olabiyl**

LAGOS State Government has arraigned the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) driver, Andrew Nice Ominnikoron, before the state High Court sitting at Tafawa Balewa (TBS), over the alleged rape and murder of his passenger, Oluwabamise Ayanwole.

The defendant was docked before Justice Sherifat Sonaiké, yesterday. When the matter came up, the Director of Public Prosecution (DPP), Dr Jide Martins, informed the court that the matter was for the arraignment of the defendant

"Going further, the governor appealed to citizens to remain calm and cooperate with security agencies as efforts were sustained to stabilise the area.

"The Kaduna State Government enjoins all residents to carefully observe the 24-hour curfew in force in the area. The curfew was declared on the ad-

vice of security agencies to prevent the escalation of violence.

"Security reports revealed that criminals took advantage of the chaos to wreak havoc of their own.

"A bus was attacked by a mob in Agban, and the conductor was killed.

"Similarly, some places of

worship were torched as tension rose in Kafanchan.

"The curfew is, therefore, essential to urgently stem the tide of violence.

"Government is working ceaselessly with security forces to restore normalcy to the area. Deep consultations with stakeholders are also ongoing."

whose counsel, Mr Isaac Ezeawem, did not object to his arraignment.

Martins told the court that the defendant on November 25, 2021, allegedly raped a 29-year-old lady, Nneka Maryjane Ozezulu, without her consent. He said that the incident took place at about 7pm, at the Conservation Centre, Lekki-Ajah Expressway, Lagos.

Similarly, the prosecutor also informed the court that Ominnikoron conspired with others now at large and forcefully had sexual intercourse

with another 22-year-old passenger, Oluwabamise Ayanwole, a fashion designer without her consent and murdered her.

Martins said the incident happened on February 25, 2022, at about 8pm, at Lekki-Ajah Conservation Expressway and Cater Bridge.

He said that the defendant and others still at large, on February 26, 2022, unlawfully killed one Oluwabamise Ayanwole by throwing her out of a moving bus at Cater Bridge after having sexual intercourse with her without her consent.

Demolition: Abuja shop owners ask court to jail FCT minister, others for contempt

From **Godwin Tsa**, Abuja

ABUJA shop owners have asked a High Court of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja, to commit the Minister of the FCT, Mohammed Bello, Blizzard Nigeria Limited and four others to prison for invading their shops with armed policemen with the intention to demolish same in flagrant disobedience to orders of the court.

Other persons cited in the contempt proceedings are Bashir Musa Hamza; Hussaina Musa Hamza; Peter Odumegwu and Ethel Odumegwu.

The rest are Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA); Abuja Markets Management Limited and Abuja

Investment Limited.

The motion seeking the committal of the affected persons to prison was filed by counsel to the shop owners and a former Attorney General of Imo State, Chukwuma Ma-Chukwu Ume (SAN), pursuant to section 72 of the Sheriff's and Civil Processes Act, Cap 551; order ix rule 13 of the Judgment Enforcement rules.

The suit marked FCT/HC/CV/066/2022 was instituted against the defendants by Olugbenga Odubayo, Alfred Eigbefoh, Martins Okwuolisa, Mrs Susan Ogo Chinyere and Jinifa Allied Ltd, for themselves and as representatives of the tenants/allottee of the Zone 3 Shopping Complex, Wuse, Abuja.

They are seeking an order

of the court committing Blizzard Nigeria Limited, Bashir Musa Hamza; Hussaina Musa Hamza; Peter Odumegwu and Ethel Odumegwu "to prison and/or to pay fine for contempt, having: disobeyed the specific orders of this court made on February 14, 2022; in respect of the 38 shops at the Zone 3 Shopping Complex, Wuse, Abuja, with its appurtenances, subject matter of this Suit."

Ume told the court that the contemtor "having been served with the court processes, particularly the writ of summons with an injunction stating: "Take Notice that all parties in this Suit are to maintain status quo" yet went ahead to tamper with the "res"

The prosecutor said the offences committed are contrary to and punishable under Sections 411, 223, 260 and 165 of the criminal law of Lagos State 2015.

However, the 47-year-old defendant pleaded not guilty to the charge against him.

Based on the defendant's plea, the DPP urged the court to further remand him at the Ikoyi Prison and asked for a trial date.

Consequently, Justice Sonaiké ordered that Ominnikoron should be further remanded at the Ikoyi prison and adjourned the case to May 9, 10 and 11, 2022 for commencement of trial. On March 11, 2022, Yaba Chief Magistrates' Court remanded the defendant in prison custody for 30 days over his alleged involvement in the death of Ayanwole, pending the DPP's legal advice.

Magistrate O. A. Salawu made the order following an application by the State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID), Yaba, Lagos.

Salawu, who stood in for Chief Magistrate Tunbosun Adedayo, ruled that Ominnikoron should be kept at the Ikoyi prison pending legal advice on the matter from the Lagos State Directorate of Public Prosecution (DPP).

(Continued on www.sunnewsonline)

CHANGE OF NAME

OYEMERE : I, formerly known as OYEMERE MMESOMA SALVATION, now wish to be known and addressed as GOODLUCK MMESOMA SALVATION. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.