



Badoo strikes again, kills couple, two kids

It was sorrow, tears and blood as the dreaded cult group, Badoo, struck again in Ikorodu area of Lagos. The ritual killer group attacked a family of five in the early hours of yesterday Olopomeji, Odongunyan in Ikorodu North Local Council Development Area of Lagos, killing a couple and two of their three children, while the remain two-year-old child was in critical condition at the Ikorodu General Hospital. Initially, two of the children survived the attack and were rushed to the hospital. But about noon, one of the children also died. The victim: are the father, David Ike (42); wife, Margret (39), children – David Ike Junior (eight) and Mathew Ike (six). Sources said that Margret was raped before she was gruesomely murdered. Sources said the assailants initially attacked two houses on number 10 and 12, Ali Adesanyan Street, but did not injure the residents.

They later went to number 9, the same street, where they killed the Ikes. The killings have thrown the entire Odogunyan community in Ikorodu area of Lagos into mourning.

Our correspondents also learnt that immediately the news of the attack filtered into town, the residents, friends and family members of the victims protested to the palace of the Olu of Ikorodu to register their grievances. While the bodies of the victims were deposited at the Ikorodu General Hospital mortuary, the only surviving child was in critical condition at the same hospital.

The suspected Badoo members, it was learnt, scaled the fence of the victims' house, while the family members were asleep. The assailants entered into the Ikes' rented apartment and used grinding stone to attack them. The killers were said to have hit the father with the grinding stone, where he was sleeping on the sofa in the living room, while his wife who was lying on the bed in their bedroom was allegedly raped after which they hit her with the stone.

Our correspondent also learnt that the suspects also went for the children where they were sleeping and hit them with the grinding stone. Mrs. Glory Nwachukwu, the wife of the victims' landlord, expressed shock at the incident.

The woman said she saw the family in a pool of blood when she went to check them in the morning and then raised the alarm. She said: "When the suspected Badoo came into our compound they locked us inside the house with a padlock. It was when I woke my children up about 6a.m. to prepare them for school that I discovered our door had been locked and I raised the alarm. When I was shouting I believe the Ikes should have heard my voice. But when I noticed that they did not come out, I went to their apartment to check on them.

I found them in a pool of blood. I raised the alarm which attracted other neighbours and we also informed the police at Sagamu Road Police Station." According to Nwachukwu, when the policemen came, they took the bodies of the man, his wife and one of the children away.

They discovered that two of the children were still breathing and rushed them to Ikorodu General Hospital but one of the children later died. Mr. Ibu Mike, who spoke on behalf of the aggrieved residents at the palace of the monarch of Ikorodu, said they came to the palace to intimate the monarch of the killing and to find a lasting solution to the massacre in the community. Responding, Oba Kabiru Shotobi assured them that the palace was doing everything to curtail the activities of Badoo in Ikorodu.

He said: "I sympathise with you. When I was informed about the killing I never bothered if the person killed is Yoruba because we are all one before God.

"I was pained and we are doing everything to curtail the activities of the Badoo in Ikorodu, because, I have notified the Commissioner of Police, Army, the Department of State Service (DSS) and other security agencies in the state. We are going to chase them out. Because I believe they are not spirits; they live in our midst." The monarch urged the protesters to be vigilant in the community.

He said: "Use whistles to call one another if you see strange persons in your community. The fight against Badoo is a joint one." There have been incessant Badoo attacks in Ikorodu division for about two years without any sign of abating. Another resident, Mr. Uder John, said they could no longer sleep with their eyes closed because of Badoo's activities. He said: "We want security in Ikorodu, we are tired of the nonsense killing of the cultists; they have murdered a lot of people in Ikorodu. Lagos State government should come to our rescue. are dying in thousands; we cannot move our house out of the place."

The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), ASP Olarinde Famous-Cole, who confirmed the incident, said the matter was reported at Sagamu Road Police Division. He said: "Policemen were deployed to the scene to evacuate the remains of the victims. The command is doing everything possible to arrest the perpetrators of the act and bring them to justice." According to him, investigations are ongoing in the latest killings.