

METRO AND CRIME

Indigenes protest death of woman, 90, land grabbing



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Scores of indigenes of Sagamu, Ogun State, recently took to the streets, protesting the activities and terror being unleashed on their farmlands by alleged land grabbers. The protesters, armed with placards bearing various inscriptions, thronged the palace of Ewusi of Makun, Oba Timothy Akinsanya, to vent their anger.

They accused one Kamoru of allegedly masterminding land grabbing in some parts of Sagamu despite the law prohibiting such action in the state. The protest, which took off from the Awolowo Market, Sagamu, was triggered by the recent death of a 90-year-old woman, Madam Bintu Jinadu.

The woman was alleged to have died some days after policemen stormed her residence and whisked away

her son, Abdulrahman AbdulKabir, and two other men – Chief Idowu Sanya and Dauda Owolabi. Sanya, who is the Akoje of Makun land, is one of the prominent traditional kingmakers in the town. New Telegraph gathered that the trio, who were arrested last month, spent 11 days in police detention on account of disagreement with suspected land grabbers. Narrating their ordeal, leader of the protesters, Jamiu Lajiga, said the deceased was shocked by the arrest of her son and never recovered from the shock. He declared that the people of Makun Sagamu were tired of the activities of land grabbers within their territories in Simawa area.

Lajiga added: “Many of the notorious land grabbers evicted from Lagos State have, for long, relocated to the Remo towns and villages, where they have been terrorising our people and collecting their family lands. Kamoru operates with impunity, in manners that suggest he is above the law. This is seen in his recent show of force against some of our people, leading to the death of the 90-yearold woman.”

Our correspondent learnt that the policemen that arrested the victims were operatives of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS), Abuja. It was also gathered that the SARS operatives initially detained the victims at Magbon, Abeokuta office of SARS before moving them to Force headquarters, Abuja.

The victims, who also recounted their humiliating experience in police cell, said they were not informed of their offences before the arrest. They appealed to the monarch and concerned authorities to come to their aid and save them from land grabbers. Oba Akinsanya sympathised with the victims over what he called, “an abominable brutalization of innocent land owners by land grabbers.” The Ewusi, who also condoled with the bereaved family, urged the protesters to keep the peace, promising that he would take up the matter.