



Construction Iyemero Police Post ongoing as ordered by the state government



Olu of Iyemero

Monday, April 15, will forever, linger in the minds of residents of Iyemero Ekiti in Ikole Local Government Area of Ekiti State. Assailants alleged to be suspected herdsmen besieged the community at the early hours of the day, leaving sorrow, tears and blood  
**ADEWUMI ADEMUU reports**

**T**he assailants shot a seven-year-old boy during the raid and a couple, whom the husband later died in the hospital.

No fewer than two persons were killed, three others mangled during the attack while many were displaced from their residences by the assailants, who were said to have invaded the farmstead at midnight.

**Iyemero is a community of farmsteads.**

The dreadful incident occurred at a farmstead called Ida, one of the communities in Iyemero town.

Sources identified one of the dead as Mr Danjuma Ali, a Muslim farmer, while the identity of the second person, whose bodies had been deposited in the morgue of the General hospital, Ikole Ekiti, was still sketchy as at the time of filing this report.

Those undergoing Medicare at the emergency section of the Federal Teaching Hospital (FETH), Ido Ekiti include Mrs Jennifer Akoko, Mr Joseph Achebe and one other victim.

The source said: "It has happened again today. It has been a recurrent killing. Some herdsmen called Bororo stormed the farmstead and shot these innocent people."

"They came around 1 a.m and were there till dawn. Our farmers are all afraid to go their farmsteads. They all rushed to the palace of Oba Ebenezer Agboola Ogungbemi, the Olu of Iyemero Ekiti to take refuge."

"We are mourning today at Iyemero. We are not happy about this incident and the government must do something about it", the source said. The Olu of Iyemero, Oba Ogungbemi and Olu-In-Council, restated their calls for establishment of a police station in the town to curb these assaults.

The monarch, who spoke through the palace spokesman, Chief Ariyo Abejide, said there was urgent need for the teeming population of farmers in the farmstead to be protected and secured by the security agencies from another seemingly and imminent attacks and onslaught from the marauders. "These Fulani herdsmen stormed the community through the border of Iyemero at Eruku in Kwara State. This makes Iyemero a porous exit and entrance, which portend dangers and insecurity to the community Ikole Local Government and the state in general."

Oba Ogungbemi urged the residents

to be peaceful and called for immediate intervention of the state government in this regard.

Also, the head of security and community vigilante group, Chief Jimoh Eshikin, called on the state government to empower the village hunters in order to assist the security agents in effective surveillance and patrol. Sequel to the attack, The Ekiti State Governor, Dr Kayode Fayemi, who visited the community, regretted the incident and commiserated with the people of Iyemero.

Fayemi, represented by the Commissioner for Information, Mr Muyiwa Olumilua, said government would take every necessary step to arrest the killers and bring them to justice. He added that his government was ready to pay the hospital bill of the victims in order to relieve them of the burden.

"We sympathise with you because lives of Ekiti people are precious to us in this government."

"As part of the ways to arrest this situation, the governor has begun the construction of a police post in Iyemero. We are assuring you that something like this won't happen again". Contrary to the revelation made by the monarch that two persons had died due to the attack, the Ekiti State police command reported that no life was lost.

Reacting to the contradiction, Fayemi said: "We knew there was loss of lives and that was why we are here to commiserate with the town. But in spite of this provocative attack, they should remain calm and be law abiding, particularly the farmers."

"What we were told was that it was an armed robbery issue, according to findings and reports. But whatever dimension or form it must have emerged, we are prepared to tackle it", he assured.

Oba Ogungbemi maintained that two people were killed in the attack allegedly carried out by suspected Fulani herdsmen in a farmstead under the town.

The monarch dismissed the claim by the Commissioner of Police, Mr Asuquo Amba, that preliminary report indicated that nobody died during the attack.

Having been reported that two people died in the attack, the police in a statement by Amba on Tuesday, a day after the attack dismissed the claim that two people were killed, describing it as mere hearsay.

But the monarch insisted that two persons were shot dead while speaking on Wednesday when the delegation sent by Fayemi to commiserate with the town visited him.

Oba Ogungbemi said the victims confirmed to him that Fulani herdsmen who had been having a running battle with the farmers perpetrated the dastardly act.

## When assailants struck in Ekiti community

"They invaded the community at midnight and shot a seven-year-old boy and scattered his head. They also shot a couple in the other house and the husband has died after they were rushed to Ikole General hospital and the bullets could not be extracted from his body early enough."

"They have removed the bullets from the body of the wife and she had been referred to Federal Teaching Hospital, Ido Ekiti for treatment. "What we know is that, the robbers used to escape through Ikole-Itapaji-Iyemero-Eruku route to Kwara State after robbing banks in Ado Ekiti. It is a fact that we have a porous border."

"My people should be on alert and we are already mobilising the local hunters to work with the security agencies to tame the perpetrators". Oba Ogungbemi restated his call for the establishment of a police station in the town to curb marauders.

He added: "The correct information now is that two people died. People can't go to their camp because they are afraid."

"About 60 of them have been displaced and they were here in my palace till today (Wednesday) before they left".

The community also lamented electricity supply in the town. The residents said they have been under darkness for over three years. "Fayemi gave us electricity during his first tenure. After that, the distributors have come to pack and remove our electric wires. Since then, it has been power outage for more than three years."

"No facilities and adequate personnel in the community Health Centre; no pharmacists, health information attendants and even security both day and night", one of the residents said.

The health officer, Sheed Kafayat Olayemi, decried the situation and called for immediate intervention of the government.

The commissioner for information, Mr Muiywa Olumilua promised to inform his colleague in the health for immediate solution.

### APC lacks capacity to secure Ekiti - PDP

Meanwhile, the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has berated the All Progressives Congress, (APC) of lacking the wherewithal to govern and secure the state.

The Chairman of PDP in the state, Chief Gboyega Oguntwase, reacting to Iyemero attack, said the killing and inhuman treatment unleashed on Iyemero community by gunmen on Monday night showed that the APC government in the state had no capacity to protect Ekiti people.

Oguntwase, who gave the reaction despite Fayemi's condolence visit to the community on Wednesday, said: "The criminality

pervading the state shows clearly that Governor Fayemi has no capacity to control the rate of robbery and other criminalities in the state. This is against the backdrop of the fact that the Olu of Iyemero had raised alarm days earlier on the activities of herdsmen in the community".

The PDP chairman said: "Fayemi should come home and oversee the security of lives and property instead of being busy travelling to Abuja and junketing round the world with President Muhammad Buhari."

"We are using this opportunity to advise him to take a stand on how to protect the state against invasion of herdsmen. Fayemi should employ strategy like former Governor Ayodele Fayose did in Ekiti during the immediate past administration to protect Ekiti against herdsmen," Oguntwase said.

### Government deploys military

To tame killer bandits terrorising the town, the Ekiti State government has ordered military Joint Task Force patrol across Ekiti-Kwara border, a development which the Oba Ogungbemi and the people of the community commended and appreciated.

The monarch and members of his council, in a letter dated April, 20, 2019 and addressed to Fayemi, said the combined forces of military and local hunters would curtail the activities of the suspected killer herdsmen and restore peace to the beleaguered community.

A copy of the letter made available to journalists in Ado Ekiti on Sunday assured the government that the community would help the soldiers with veracious information to stem the tides of killings in the town.

The letter reads: "We are thankful to Governor Fayemi for deploying military joint task force to restore permanent peace and tranquillity to the people of Iyemero, which has guaranteed peaceful coexistence among the residents of the community."

"Olu-In-Council and entire people of Iyemero Ekiti wish to express our deepest and heartfelt gratitude to the governor for his immediate and prompt response during the last week insurgency, which led to death, maiming, displacement, chaos and disturbance of public peace in our town."

"With the support and assurances of Mr Governor, we are convinced that lasting peace is in sight and we are protected from the yet to be identified assailants and terrorists."