

Deposed Ondo monarch's house 'bombed'; wife, 3 children roasted

BY DAYO JOHNSON

ONE of the wives and three daughters of the deposed *Olugbo* of Ugbo Kingdom, an oil-rich Ilaje community in Ondo State, Prince Adebajo Mafimisebi, were roasted in an early morning inferno in Akure, the state capital, yesterday.

But the family of the former *Olugbo* alleged that the private residence was bombed by his enemies.

The state deputy governor, Alhaji Ali Olanusi, and the state Commissioner of Police, Chintua Amajor-Onu, have visited the bereaved family to console with them.

At press time, the whereabouts of the former monarch were unknown.

The wife, Ayodele, 56; Princess Folake, 15; Adekemi, 12 and Adeseun, 8, died in the fire incident that occurred about 2 a.m. at the house — 11, Road

Q, Oba-Ile Housing Estate.

During *Sunday Vanguard's* visit to the residence yesterday, the fire was still on while the relations of the deposed monarch broke into the building to remove the corpses to the State Hospital mortuary. Bomb experts from the Ondo State Police Command also combed the building for traces of explosives.

Some blood stains were noticed on the fence at the back of the building which the former *Olugbo* family members alleged was where the arsonists used to gain access to the building.

Speaking with *Sunday Vanguard*, a cousin to the former traditional ruler, Olumide Jaiyeola, and one of the surviving daughters of the late *Olori*, Miss Adetutu Mafimisebi, alleged that the residence was bombed.

Adetutu, who said she was alive because she went for a vigil the previous night, lamented that

her mother and three siblings were consumed by the inferno.

Adetutu said: "I came in around 5a.m. (Saturday) and saw thick smoke coming out of the building. The gate was opened and I saw some sympathisers and security men trying to evacuate the corpses of my mother and sisters.

"Their remains were then taken away to the mortuary of the State Hospital in Akure."

Jaiyeola, the younger brother to the deposed monarch, said the family suspected that some people, who are after the former *Olugbo*, might have carried out the act.

Another younger brother to Mafimisebi, Idowu, alleged that "the manner the incident occurred suggested that it was a case of arson as neighbours said they heard a loud bang like the sound of a bomb before a heavy flame of fire erupted from the building."

Idowu added: "I re-

ceived a call around 3.20 a.m. that the house was on fire and I raced down to the place immediately. I discovered that all the occupants had been burnt to death.

"Their neighbours told me that the sound of a very loud explosion woke them from their sleep and forced them to come out of their houses.

"They (neighbours) said the heavy smoke coming out of the building did not allow them to go in until the fire subsided.

"What happened was not an ordinary fire disaster caused by either electric spark or a domestic fire outbreak from the kitchen. The sound of the blasts was suggestive of a bomb with the use of grenade.

"The residence of my brother (deposed monarch) was razed in similar manner on February 25, 2009, killing two persons just because a case we instituted was coming up few days to that time in court.

"Today, again, they struck simply because they thought my brother would be in Akure."

One of the neighbours of the deposed *Olugbo* said he and others were able to gain entry into the house through the kitchen door which they found opened at 2 a.m. after the inferno started.

He said, "The police, who were also called as early as 2a.m, did not come until around 6, this morning."

Ondo State police image maker, Adeniran Aremu, said the incident was an inferno which consumed the *Olori* and the three daughters.

According to Aremu, the building was a four-bedroom bungalow.

He said investigation was on to ascertain the cause of the incident.

Sympathisers, mostly from Ilaje, trooped to the residence. They rained curses and abuses on the perpetrators of the 'arson'.