

Government Area based on the allegation that he was a wizard

The kidnappers were said to have escaped with the victim in a blue Toyota Highlander

as 39-years-old Kelvin Igah and Victor Igah, 35, both said to be brothers from Kwale in Delta State.

Alhaji Fashola, the victim

3 killed, 200 shops razed as violence escalates in Ibadan

By Ola Ajayi

IBADAN — SOME parts of Ibadan were, yesterday, engulfed in violence which led to the death of three persons.

Also, about 200 shops, 10 houses, trucks and many vehicles were razed during the attack which was triggered by some political thugs in Ibadan South-West.

Vanguard gathered that the violent attacks were carried out in places such as Born Photo, Isale Osi, Idi Arere and Popoyemoja.

Sources said the attackers besieged the areas around 9am. On arrival, the suspected thugs were reportedly shooting indiscriminately and looting at the same time.

At press time, residents of the area had fled to avoid being attacked by the hoodlums.

Though the police reportedly got to the troubled areas some minutes later, the hoodlums had left in their trails sorrow, lamentation and death.

On Friday, some thugs

attacked and killed a policeman and left another one unconscious.

Victims recount ordeal

A woman, who identified herself as Folake, said she lost goods worth over N1 million.

According to her, after receiving a call that her shop was burning, she saw people with guns shooting and burning houses.

She said: "The trouble started since Friday but today's violence was targeted at people, houses and shops. They burned my refrigerators, generators and looted everything in the shop. I am devastated."

Another victim, one Mr. Kolade Asimiyu, told newsmen how his property was razed.

He said: "The fight at Oke-Ado three days ago spread to our community. I was locked in the building, while the thugs set the house on fire. I struggled to put it out but it was beyond me so I escaped."

Several other people who spoke with *Vanguard* linked the crisis to the 2015 election

that is fast approaching.

2015 elections

Bisi Shittu said, "Politicians armed with guns released several shots at Born Photo junction. This is madness at a time when we are saying that peace is reigning in the state. This is a fall-out of the Friday violence at All Progressives Congress, APC, rally where a policeman was shot dead. This may not be over soon because there could be a reprisal attack."

Speaking on the development, the APC state secretary, Mr. Wale Shadare and the Caretaker Chairman of Ibadan South-West council area, Mr. Taoreed Adeleke, said the violence was triggered by the opposition parties which felt uncomfortable by the growing popularity of Governor Abiola Ajimobi who had been moving from council to council sensitising them on the need to sustain the peace that reigned in the state since he assumed office in 2011.

Gang-up

Also, the APC Chairman in

the state, Chief Akin Oke, said: "All evidence at our disposal pointed at a high-level gang-up by some politicians currently at large to embarrass the government and destroy the three-and-half years of peace that had been reigning in the state."

"We still insist that the persons behind that violence were carrying out a high-level assignment which has to do with the 2015 elections. The violence betrays logic. Why would APC 'thugs', if the allegation of the opposition is to be believed, be involved in shooting the police and not their rival groups? Why did the attackers choose the governor's local government and the last day of his meet-the-people tour, as their target?"

The Police Public Relations Officer, Oyo State Police Command, SP Olabisi Ilobanafor, was reluctant to make comments on the issue but assured that the state Commissioner of Police, Mr. Kola Sodipo, who had zero tolerance for crisis, would speak on it later.