

Farmers, cattle rearers' clash: Kwara villagers drag police to NHRC over alleged murder, brutality

By Yinka Ajayi

THE National Human Rights Commission, NHRC, has received a petition from Oro-Ago village in Kwara State on alleged murder, brutality, intimidation, unlawful arrest and detention by the Nigeria Police.

The petition, submitted on Monday in Abuja, listed the alleged atrocities committed by the police who stormed the community on June 12, as the murder of Mrs. Bolatito Balogun and bodily injury to several others including one Mrs. Tope Ologemo, who is lying critically in the hospital.

President, Oro- Ago

Development Union, Chief Richard Olushola, accused the police of taking sides with Fulani Bororos, who allegedly precipitated the crisis leading to a clash between cattle herders and farmers in the community. He also alleged that nine people arrested in April and June are languishing in police custody in Abuja without pressing any charges against them in court.

"We are saddened that despite several entreaties, pleas and explanations in our letters to the Inspector General of Police, nine of our brethren are presently languishing in police custody in Abuja.

"These men were arrested in two batches. Six were arrested in April and

three in June. Those arrested in April are Chief Omotayo Abiodun, Chief Sunday Odeyemi, Ganiyu Ibrahim, Dauda Ibrahim, Chief Ajibola Adeoti and Mohammed Ologemo. Those arrested on 12 June are Tunde Abolaji, Oladele

Ponle and Rasaki Illa. All of them, we understand, are been detained in very de-humanising condition at a police facility in Abuja. The Muslims among them have been denied their basic religious right to observe Ramadan.



•L-R: Father of the groom, Mr. Timothy Ogunyemi; bride's mother, Mrs Bola Odanye; the newly wedded couple, Dotun and Ladunni; groom's mother, Mrs Ogunyemi and bride's father, Chief Tunde Odanye, during the wedding ceremony at