

Looting: Four corpses found in Dam as residents accuse security agents of extra-judicial killings

By Olasunkanmi Akoni

GWAFAN village in Jos North local government area which hosts the residence of the former Speaker of the House of Representatives, Yakubu Dogara has been thrown into mourning following last Sunday's looting at the home of the former Speaker as residents are accusing security agents who were drafted to stop the act of allegedly killing some residents and dumping their bodies in the surrounding dams in the area.

Among those killed was a 29 year 300L Biochemistry undergraduate of the University of Jos, Daniel Simon. Residents at his burial alleged that he was killed by some personnel of a Special Task Force. A community member who pleaded anonymity said some corpses were recovered from an abandoned mining pond behind the house of the former Speaker.

Daniel's elder brother, Iliya Simon stated on that day, some people who were not known in the neighbourhood stormed the area, located the former Speaker's house and began looting, they moved out from their houses to see what was going on. Later the security men arrived and began to chase them away. The late Daniel and some of his friends were running, but the Task Force military men reportedly chased them towards the dam and



From right: The Alafin of Oyo Oba Lamidi Adeyemi and Oluwo of Iwo, Oba Abdulrasheed Adewale when the Alafin visited Iwo

shot him directly on his face and threw him into the pond.

At the time the melee died down, they began to search for his whereabouts including the places some arrested suspected looters were taken but there was no trace of him. Days later, his corpse was found floating in the dam. They discovered he had been shot and killed with his face mangled.

The community invited the National Human Rights Commission to witness the state of the corpses found before depositing them in the morgue even as search is ongoing for those still missing.

However, the Media

officer of OPSH, Maj. Ibrahim Shittu when contacted said, "I am not aware of such, I will confirm." But the State Coordinator of the NHRC, Barr. Grace Pam said, "Yes, the thing happened on Wednesday, we went to the dam to pick the corpses, went to the new JUTH with them and from there to the old JUTH were the corpses were deposited. They were supposed to do autopsy, our staff left them there because the relations were there for the autopsy but surprisingly this (Friday) morning since we were off on Thursday, the lawyers we sent said the relations called them to say they were going to pick their corpses for burial because they did not want any

case.

"I asked if they told them the implication of their action and they said yes, even with this panel of inquiry, they can present their cases but they said they didn't want any case and there is nothing we can do. When my officers went with them to old JUTH, they were looking for pathologists that would do the autopsy, they gave them the coroner forms only for the relations to develop cold feet. Four bodies were picked, one female and three males. This is the problem we have, they make you start investigations but half way they will say they don't want to press charges."