



# Insecurity: Service chiefs know what's wrong — BUHARI

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## three policemen in Ebonyi

Three police officers were shot dead in Abakaliki, the Ebonyi State capital, by gunmen, who attacked the officers around 8pm on Wednesday at a checkpoint on Onuebonyi/Nwezenyi Road.

The officers were rushed to Alex Ekwueme Federal University Teaching Hospital where they were confirmed dead.

Their bodies have been deposited at the hospital's mortuary.

The Ebonyi Police Command confirmed the killing of the three operatives.

Loveth Odah, the Ebonyi police spokesperson, said the gunmen pretended to be holding a burial rite before they carried out the attack.

She said they drove around the area in a tricycle before opening fire on the policemen.

"Right now, investigation is ongoing and we are committed to bringing the perpetrators to book," she said.

Odah appealed to the public to support the fight against crime by providing useful information to the police and other security agencies in the state.

## Four killed in fresh Taraba attacks

Barely two days after gunmen killed one person at Ikyaor village in Wukar Local Government Area of Taraba State, gunmen Wednesday night killed four persons in separate attacks in the area.

A resident, Mr. Msiuue Aondoakaa, told Vanguard on phone that the gunmen, numbering about 20, invaded Tor-Iorshagher village at about 9:30 pm, killing one person and injuring several others.

Aondoakaa, who lamented series of unprovoked attacks in the area, called on Governor Darius Ishaku to find a lasting solution to the insecurity in the area.

In another attack, in

nearby Rafinkada, Mrs. Joy Audu, said three persons were killed on Wednesday night by unknown gunmen, while others sustained bullet wounds.

Chairman of the Local Government Council, Mr. Daniel Adi, confirmed the two attacks in a telephone conversation.

Adi, who said he had visited the two villages and directed that the dead bodies be buried, noted that he had convened a security meeting, with a view to finding a solution to the incessant attacks and killings in the area.

"Yes, one person was killed in Tor-Iorshagher, while one was wounded. Three persons were killed in Rafinkada and two sustained injuries. I am just back from Tor-Iorshagher and Rafinkada villages where the attacks happened. The two communities are relatively calm and we are going to have a security meeting to discuss a way forward," he said.

## Gunmen kill four as Katsina residents, vigilantes kill 30 bandits in reprisal attack

In Katsina, gunmen suspected to be bandits killed a former Director of Education and Social Service at Danmusa Local Government Service Commission, Alhaji Yaro Lawal, in his home in Danmusa area of Katsina State.

In another development, the bandits reportedly killed three persons in Kankara area of the state, while the residents and vigilantes in a reprisal attack killed 30 bandits.

A source in Danmusa area said the bandits on Wednesday evening, stormed Lawal's house when he and others were breaking the Muslim Ramadan fast. They attempted to take him away on their motorcycle. He resisted and the bandits shot him.

The source said most of the people around fled for safety.

"At about 7:30pm, the bandits met him alongside some few people in the frontage of his house which is a stone throw from the Police station. They (bandits) ordered him to climb one of the motorcycles and follow them which he refused. The bandits shot Alhaji severally. He was rushed to the hospital but died on the way," the source said.

Similarly, another source in Kankara said on Monday, the bandits attacked Majifa village, killed three persons and the villagers put calls to surrounding villages who laid ambush and killed no fewer than 30 of the bandits.

The source said: "The bandits came to Majifa village where they killed three persons. However, the villagers decided to put calls through to their neighbouring villages who gathered and laid ambush for the bandits in Kokarawa village. And in the process, they killed over 30 bandits," he said.

At press time efforts to confirm the incidents from the Police did not yield results. Calls to the phone number of the spokesperson, Katsina State Police Command, SP Gambo Isah, rang out without reply.

## Farmer hacked to death by suspected herdsmen in Ibarapa

There was tension in Ibarapa Local Government Area of Oyo State, yesterday, following the killing of a 56-year-old farmer, Mufutau Babarinde, in the area.

Vanguard gathered that Babarinde was hacked to death by suspected herdsmen at Orija-Merin Konko village in Ibarapa North Local Government Area of the state.

This happened on a day the Aare-Ona-Kakanfo of Yorubaland, Iba Gani Adams, urged the acting Inspector-General of Police, Mr. Usman Alkali Baba, to urgently redeploy Oyo State Commissioner of Police, Mrs. Ngozi Onadeko, for effective security of the state.

## Panic in Ibarapa

The incident, which has thrown the people of Tapa, where the deceased hailed from, into confusion, was said to have happened at about 7pm on Wednesday. Babarinde, it was gathered, had gone to his farm to give his labourers food and was returning

home when the hoodlums waylaid and killed him.

Some residents said they could not say what was responsible for the killing of the farmer, who they said was very popular in the area, claiming that those responsible were some of those who were sent packing when Oodua People's Congress, OPC, and vigilantes stormed the residence of alleged kidnap kingpin, Iskilu Wakili, to arrest him in February.

The Police Public Relations Officer in the state, Adewale Osifeso, confirmed the incident, saying more information would be made public as investigation has commenced.

Some of the people in the area, including the Convener, Igangan Development Advocates, Oladiran Oladokun, also confirmed the killing.

In an interview with Vanguard, Oladokun said the man was killed by suspected herdsmen, adding that the killing had thrown the area into panic.

"This has shown to the public we don't have any security again. The government and security agencies have failed us. We can't sleep with our two eyes closed any longer," he lamented.

## Gani Adams to Ag. IG: Redeploy Oyo CP for effective security, safety

Meanwhile, the Aare-Ona-Kakanfo of Yorubaland, Iba Adams, in a statement by his Special Assistant—on Media, Kehinde Aderemi, urged immediate redeployment of the Oyo State Commissioner of Police. He made the call while hosting a delegation of Ibarapa indigenes, led by chairman of Ibarapa Hunters in Oke-

Ogun, Alhaji Bilau Dare.

Two weeks ago, he charged the IGP and the Police Service Commission, PSC, to look into the security situation in the state, including the various criminal activities of herdsmen that had taken over Ibarapa and its environs.

Speaking shortly after the meeting, Adams said the meeting was to respond to the various security challenges in the area, adding that the delegation came to give an update on the security situation in Ibarapa and its environs.

Aare Adams said: "From the reports available to me, I think the call for the redeployment of Oyo CP is long overdue. It is long overdue because nothing seems to have changed since the kidnap kingpin, Iskilu Wakili, was arrested and handed over to the Police."

"It is sad that nothing has really changed. Up till today, cases of kidnappings and killings still continue unabated. That is to show that the CP has lost grip of the state. I said it the other time that Oyo State is too volatile for a gentle cop and everybody can see it now that the police boss cannot handle the security situation of a crisis-prone state like Oyo, where crime rate on a daily basis is very high and ridiculous."

"So I am appealing to the new acting Inspector-General of Police, Usman Alkali Baba, to listen to the cry of the people of Ibarapa who could no longer go to their farms and live their normal lives because of fear of being kidnapped or killed by herdsmen. All available evidence showed that the CP cannot handle the security challenges in the state."

## Kidnappers, killer herdsmen have

## taken over our farms — Ibarapa hunters

In his remarks, chairman of hunters in Ibarapa, Alhaji Bilau Dare, said the group came to visit the Aare-Ona-Kakanfo to find lasting solution to the security situation in the state.

Dare expressed disappointment at the spate of insecurity in Oke-Ogun, stressing that killings and kidnappings in Ibarapa and its environs were getting worse daily, adding that he lost his younger brother, Mufutau Babarinde, yesterday, as a result of herdsmen attacks.

His words: "I am bereaved. I lost my younger brother, Mufutau Babarinde. He was returning from his farm when four criminal herdsmen accosted him and hacked him to death. We have reported the case to the police and his remains had been deposited in the morgue."

"That is how it has been on daily basis. Kidnappers and killer herdsmen have taken over our farms and we can't go to our farms any longer because of fear of being kidnapped."

Also speaking, a chieftain of the OPC in Ibarapa, Comrade Olanrewaju Ogedengbe, lamented that despite the efforts of his members to support the police in curbing the spate of insecurity in the state, the police have failed to unravel those behind the various killings and kidnappings in Ibarapa and its environs.

Ogedengbe said: "It is unfortunate that our men are still in police custody. How do you explain the story of our men who risked their lives during a gun battle with the kidnappers and at the end of the encounter, the police arrested and detained them unjustly?"

# 8 power plants down

• Power minister apologises for erratic electric supply

By Chris Ochayi & Davies Iheamnachor

THE Minister of Power, Saleh Mamman, has apologised to Nigerians over the recent erratic power supply in the country, saying no fewer than power generating plants had broken down in the last few weeks.

In a statement signed yesterday by his spokesman, Aaron Artimas, the minister said the breakdown of the plants was responsible for the poor power supply situation in the country.

He noted further that seven other thermal plants were battling with low gas shortages but assured that there were ongoing efforts to restore power to the affected areas in the

country.

The statement read: "I sincerely regret the recent power outages across the nation and the difficulties it has brought with it, and wish to assure my fellow Nigerians that everyone involved is working assiduously to restore the national grid to its previous historical levels and exceed that."

"The problem is caused by the breakdown of some National Integrated Power Plants supplying electricity to the national grid. The plants are namely Sapele, Afam, Olorunsogo, Omotosho, Ibom, Egbin, Alaoji and Ihovbor. The Jebba Power Plant was shut down for annual maintenance."

"Seven other integrated power plants, namely Geregu, Sepele, Omotosho, Gbarin,

Omuku, Paras and Alaoji are experiencing gas constraints, while the Shiroro hydroelectric power plant has water management issues. This unfortunate development has drastically affected power generation, thus effectively minimizing the national grid."

"In view of this, The Minister of Power Engr. @EngrSMamman regrets this unfortunate situation and offers his sincere apology to all affected Nigerians on the inconveniences the Power shortages are causing."

"He assures that the ministry through the appropriate Agencies is working assiduously to rectify the technical problems affecting the plants as well as resolving the gas issues to the others."

## NIRA WATCH

## Naira stable at N410.50/\$ in I&E window

By Elizabeth Adegbesan

The naira yesterday was stable at N410.50 kobo per dollar in the Investors and Exporters (I&E) window even as the volume of dollars traded rose by 430 percent.

Data from FMDQ showed that the volume of dollars traded (turnover) in the window yesterday rose by 430 percent to \$116.16 million from \$21.92 million on Wednesday.