

Igangan massacre callous, provocative — S'WEST GOVS

●Outrage as gunmen kill over 20 in fresh attack on Igangan ●Over 50 attackers came on 20 motorcycles — RESIDENT ●Monarch's whereabouts unknown ●We sent intelligence report, says ex-council boss ●Residents vow to resort to self-defence ●Igangan killings devastating, dehumanising — ALAAFIN ●War is imminent, says Gani Adams ●S-West govs should ask Buhari if we're not wanted in Nigeria — YCE ●We're in control of the situation — Makinde ●We can't confirm casualty figure — POLICE

By Dayo Johnson, Regional Editor, South-West, Dapo Akinrele, Ola Ajayi & Deola Badru

IBADAN — NO fewer than 20 persons were killed by gunmen in Igangan in Ibarapa North Local Government Area of Oyo State as the South-West Governors' Forum, yesterday, condemned the killings, describing them as horrendous, callous, and highly provocative.

Chairman of the forum, Governor Akeredolu of Ondo State, in a statement titled: 'Igangan provocative onslaught one too many', urged Nigerians to condemn the dastardly act.

The statement reads: "All well-meaning Nigerians must condemn, in the strongest term possible, this latest assault on decency and communal harmony."

"We have just received with rude shock the premeditated attack on our people at Igangan, Ibarapa, Oyo State, in the early hours of Sunday."

"This cowardly onslaught on a peaceful community has occasioned loss of lives and property on a large scale."

"It is horrendous, callous, and highly provocative. All well-meaning Nigerians must condemn, in the strongest terms possible, this latest assault on decency and

communal harmony. "While we will encourage the security agencies to get to the root of this latest act of provocation, we have directed the Commanders of the South West Security Network, Amotekun, to convene a joint security meeting of all Commanders in the South West with a view to commencing joint operations in the region immediately. "We must reiterate the fact that certain elements are bent on causing friction among the peoples of this country with the sole aim of achieving a pernicious end."

"They will stop at nothing until their set goal is realized. It is, therefore, incumbent on all lovers of peace and freedom to rise against this current regression into savagery."

"We on our part are resolved to defend our people, their property, and all legitimate means of livelihood against both internal and external aggression."

"On this, there will be no compromise. We call on our people to remain vigilant and report any suspicious movement in their communities."

"In addition, they must be united in the task of defending our lives and properties. We cannot

afford to fail."

Gunmen kill over 20 in Igangan fresh attack

Six days after the Chairman of Amotekun Corps in Oyo State, Maj. Gen. Ajibola Togun, ret'd, raised the alarm that some foreign herders were about to unleash terror on the South-West, scores of gunmen, on Saturday night, attacked Igangan in Ibarapa North Local Government Area of the state, killing over 20 persons.

The latest killings, however, generated angry reactions from the Alaafin of Oyo, Oba Lamidi

Adeyemi, who described the attack and killing as devastating and dehumanising.

Similarly, the Aare-Ona-Kakanfo of Yorubaland, Iba Gani Adams, who described the killings as one too many, warned that the attack is an invitation to war.

In its immediate reaction, the Yoruba Council of Elders, YCE, urged South-West governors to ask President Muhammadu Buhari if South-Westerners are still wanted in Nigeria.

But as a way of calming frayed nerves, Governor Seyi Makinde of Oyo State urged residents of the state to remain calm, saying security operatives

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are in control of the situation.

The gunmen were said to have struck at midnight, killing, maiming and setting houses ablaze.

At press time yesterday, it was gathered that over 20 people were killed, cars burnt and over 20 houses razed.

Also, the palace of Asigangan of Igangan land, Oba Adewuyi Olaoye, was not spared and the monarch, according to reports, was

whisked away by the bandits.

Also, in a viral video, a man was seen crying while recording the gory scenes asking if Yoruba would fold their arms and watch bandits hack them down.

He said: "What is the Yoruba doing? See how these herders killed our people. See how they mutilated their bodies. We say we don't want to live with these blood-sucking people again, some people are saying no. Let's just sit by and watch. The consequences are very glaring."

Spokesperson of Igangan community, Mr. Taiwo Adeagbo, said the herders also burnt the palace of the monarch in the agrarian town.

Confirming the attack, former caretaker chairman of the council, Mr. Tunji Omolewu, who said he rushed down to Igangan on Sunday morning to verify the attacks, said: "I got the call around 11 pm. We were on our way from Ekiti where we had gone to do the Yoruba nation rally."

"I got to Ibadan around midnight and when the calls did not stop coming, Continues on Page 41



From left, Hon. Stella Okotele, Executive Director, Business Development, Nigeria Export Import Bank (NEXIM); Dikko Umaru Radda, Director-General, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN); Mr. Idris Samalla Nyam, Commissioner for Business, Innovation and Technology, Kaduna State; Mr. Abubakar Abba Bello, Managing Director, NEXIM Bank, Umma Yusuf Aboki, Executive Secretary, Kaduna Investment Promotion Agency at NEXIM Bank Export Enlightenment Forum in Kaduna over the weekend.