

One feared killed, two missing as armed hoodlums attack Ogun community

By Gbenga Onanuga

ARMED hoodlums in the early hours of yesterday invaded the Igbo Oba community in the Igbesa area of Ogun State, with one person feared killed and seven others shot.

The whereabouts of two residents suspected to have been whisked away by the hoodlums were still unknown as of yesterday evening.

The attack on the community, according to the villagers, occurred less than 48 hours after they alerted the Inspector-General of Police, IGP Alkali Usman Baba, of an imminent invasion.

An earlier attempt by the hoodlums to attack the villagers was reportedly foiled by policemen from the Special Weapon and Tactical Squad, SWAT Abuja, who dislodged them.

But the hoodlums were said to have announced their return with sporadic gunshots, which jostled residents from sleep.

One of the injured persons, Idris Hamzat, receiving treatment at the Ota General Hospital, explained that "I was inside the room when the power generating set stopped working because petrol had finished. I was reluctant to go outside for fear of being attacked by robbers. My brother accompanied me. Immediately we stepped outside, I heard gunshots. I didn't know the exact location it was coming from. We ran in different directions.

"I felt a sharp pain in my thigh but I kept running into the bush, as I could not go back to the house. In the process, I became dizzy and fell".

Another victim, Oladimeji Akande, said, "the hoodlums were about 100. A bullet hit me in the leg and other parts of my body. They thought I was dead. As I struggled to creep into the bush, they kept shooting in my direction. I was lucky to be alive".

A resident, John Oloru Odo, said they identified two persons among the invaders. He disclosed that "this is the fourth time that they have attacked us in the last one month. The attack came less than two days after we raised the alarm that these people were planning to invade our village. That was after they were chased away by SWAT officers from Abuja."

Three suspects: Adewale Muibi, Kamoor Ayodele and Taofeek Ogunleye, have reportedly been arrested by policemen attached to the Agbara division. One of them, Muibi, a suspected member of the outlawed Odua People's Congress, OPC was reported to have been found with 14 expended cartridges and six live cartridges.