

Gunmen kill Celestial prophet during church service in Ogun



Yomi Adetula was killed inside his church on Sunday

By James Ogunnaike

Gunmen suspected to be hired assassins on Sunday, shot and killed the Shepherd-in-charge of a Celestial Church of Christ (CCC) in Idiroko, Ipokia local government area of Ogun State.

The deceased, identified as Yomi Adetula was killed inside his church on Sunday morning around 11.a.m while preaching.

It was reliably gathered that Adetula's assailants, who were six in number were armed with AK-47 gun each and were all clad in the Celestial Church's garment, stormed the church, the 'Hebrew Celestial Church' located at the Odo Eran area of the Old Baggage road in Idiroko, where they rained bullets on him and waited to certify him dead and dismembered him inside the church before leaving the scene. It was further gathered that the deceased was the Idiroko Unit Commander of the Ogun State Community Social Orientation and Safety Corps, popularly known as So-Safe Corps; one of the community security outfits established and funded by the Ogun State government.

While reasons behind the dastard act could not be ascertained, it was however, gathered that late Adetula had for the past few months, been having running battles against certain smuggling cartel in Idiroko border town, which necessitated his movement to Abuja, the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) in December 2024.

Source within his church in Idiroko also said that the development led to a forceful closure of his church Hebrew Celestial Church in the same month of December, '24 by some suspected smugglers with whom he allegedly had issues.

The State Commander of the So-SAFE Corps, Soji Ganzalo, who confirmed the incident, said he received the news of Adetula's assassination with a rude shock and still couldn't believe it.

Ganzalo however, disclosed that the So-SAFE Corp would not relent until it ensure that the matter is properly investigated, while also promising to assist the appropriate security agencies with necessary information that could lead to the arrest of the suspects.

Confirming the incident, spokesperson for the Ogun State Police command, Omolola Odutola said the assailants mangled Adetula's head with axe.

Odutola in a statement said, the assailants were reported to have fled the scene immediately.

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The statement reads, "A prophet of Celestial Church of Christ Eagle parish was shot by unknown assailants who opened fire on him during an active church service and the suspects fled.

"On the 19/01/25 at about 1030HRS the divisional police officer of Idiroko invested a message that someone has been killed at Celestial Church along old Baggage road, Odo Eran, Idiroko.

"Police officers raced to the scene and saw one Yomi Adetula 'm' aged about 54 years lifeless, in the pool of his blood which stained his white Celestial Garment lying face up.

"On careful observation, his body was riddled with bullets and his head was not speared, to ensure the victim was really dead it was mangled to death.

"On police inquiry, information further revealed that three men came into the church brought out long double barrel gun aimed at their target and fire a shot that brought the deceased down."

The statement had it that the remains of Adetula has been recovered and deposited at the morgue of General Hospital, Ilaro.

While efforts are ongoing by the Police to arrest those behind the killing who were reported to have escaped towards the border area.

