

Nigeria: Kidnappings, President Tinubu pledges ACTION

February 5, 2024

www.DiGiNews360.com notes that, last year, President **Bola Ahmed Tinubu** came to power promising to address insecurity – including **jihadists in the north-east, criminal militias in the north-west** and **growing intercommunal violence in the centre of the country**. But, during the last few weeks, violence is spinning out of control. Many independent observers and Civil Society Groups have joined the opposition parties, in demanding **a state of emergency** to deal with the issue.

The Government data is that 1,800 people had been abducted since the President took office on 29 May 2023. But the true number of abductions during that time could be more than double that figure, at almost 4,000 people, says Nigerian risk consultancy SBM Intelligence.

The Nigerian law prohibits the payment of ransom money. However, today, most of the victims have lost trust in authorities and are paying up, if they can. www.DiGiNews360.com has been continuously asking the States and the Federal Government to take the Law and Order situation in Nigeria seriously and to ensure that illegal activities do not go on merrily without any care for the Law of the Land.

For examples of the Calls by www.DiGiNews360.com to take the issue of security and Law and Order as a first priority, please see:

- Page 4 of <https://diginews360.com/cbn-chair-in-custody-traditional-rulers-for-security-june-10/> dated June 10, 2023
- Pages 2 and 3 of <https://diginews360.com/nigeria-is-it-beginning-of-a-crackdown-on-bandits/> dated June 20, 2023
- page 2 of <https://diginews360.com/nigeria-a-blast-in-an-illegal-oil-refinery-kills> dated October 5, 2023

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has condoled the Governor of Ekiti State and the people of the State over Monday's attacks that led to the gruesome **killing of two traditional rulers by armed men and the abduction of six school pupils and their teachers**.

The Governor **Oyebanji** visited the two communities of **Esun-Ekiti** and **Imojo-Ekiti** on **Tuesday** morning, **January 30, 2024** and was accompanied on the visit by the Security Chiefs in the State.

Governor **Oyebanji** sympathised with the leaders and indigenes of the two communities, whom he addressed at their respective palaces during the visit.

Stressing that the **two murdered monarchs** were respected traditional rulers who **had a record of selfless service to their respective towns**, **Oyebanji** said the **State Government** would collaborate with relevant agencies **to ensure that their killers pay dearly for the heinous crime.**

The Governor said, “The **President, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, spoke with me from France** and expressed his condolences to you as well as the government of the State. The President has asked me to tell you that **the perpetrators of the crime will not go unpunished and will be and made to face the maximum punishment.** He gave assurance that **Security Agencies would free the abducted school pupils.**

“On our part, we shall collaborate with relevant agencies and traditional institutions **to make the state too hot for criminals,**” **Oyebanji** said.

The **Community leaders of Esun-Ekiti** said that their monarch, Oba **David Babtunde Ogunsola** was a great lover of his people who prioritised the security and development of his people.

The **Community leaders in Imojo-Ekiti** said the late monarch, Oba **Olatunde Samuel Olusola** championed the development of the town and was concerned about the safety of his people. They also thanked **Governor Oyebanji** for his **decision to take over the education and upbringing of the late monarch’s five young children**, who were also present during the governor’s visit.

Governor **Oyebanji**, who later visited Oba **Ayorindoue Ilori Faboro**, the **Chairman of the State Council of Traditional Rulers** and the **Olojudo of Ido-Ekiti**, at his palace in Ido-Ekiti, scheduled a major meeting with all traditional rulers in their Council Chamber in Ado-Ekiti on **Wednesday** morning, **January 31, 2024.**

“**Olojudo**” is a **title given to a traditional ruler** in Nigeria. From Yoruba, it may be translated as *‘a person, who is always proud’.*

----NEWS----

February 4, 2024: **Chief Okey Ezenwa**, the National Coordinator of the **Forum of Nigerians Professionals in Politics (FNPP)**, in a statement in Abuja on Sunday, said the attackers were after the Office of the Chief of Staff, and not after Hon. **Femi**

Gbajabiamila. The Forum said that certain **unpatriotic persons** wanted to **weaken the Tinubu-led government** by mounting coordinated attacks on the Office of the Chief of Staff to the President with the **aim of distracting the government from actualizing its set objectives and goals.** The Forum has examined **the allegations** and claims against the Chief of Staff and found all of them **to be unfounded fabrications** being conjured and put in the public space **with the intent to trigger internal disaffection** against the Tinubu administration.

Another Group '**Concerned Citizens for Good Governance**' has raised an alarm that those behind the attack against the Chief of Staff to President Tinubu are **orchestrating a campaign of calumny against Femi Gbajabiamila, to pull down the President.** The Group has demanded that the Government should take necessary measures to ensure the safety and security of Hon. **Femi Gbajabiamila,** and to bring the perpetrators of these attacks to justice.

February 2, 2024: On Friday morning, H.E. **Kayode Alabi,** the **Deputy Governor of Kwara** visited **Koro Town, Ekiti Local Government,** to **commiserate** with the community **on the killing** of the **Olukoro Rtd General Segun Aremu** as well as to express **Government's support for the security forces,** that have been deployed to track down the assailants and rescue the three persons that were abducted.



EKITI STATE: KILLING of TWO TRADITIONAL RULERS: In a separate incident, two traditional rulers - **Oba Babatunde Ogunsakin**, the **Elesun of Esun Ekiti** and **Oba Samuel Olatunji**, the **Onimojo of Imojo Ekiti** -were shot dead by unknown gunmen on **Monday, January 29, 2024**.

Oba Adebayo Fatoba, the **Alara** (means “*the leader of the family*”) of **Ara-Ekiti**, managed to escape from the incident. He was the one driving when the attackers struck. The monarchs were ambushed by the gunmen along **Ipao-Irele-Oke Ako**, in **Ekiti State**, while returning from **Ogbe**, a neighboring town in **Yagba West Local Government Area of Kogi State**.

The title **Alara** is used by many kings in the Ekiti and surrounding regions.

Ara-Ekiti is a town (*Population: 9,000 (2006 census)*) located in the **Ikole Local Government Area** (*Population: 168,436 (2006 census)*) of **Ekiti State**.

The town is known for its rich history and culture, as well as its beautiful landscapes and natural resources.

In the early 10s, Ara-Ekiti was one of the most powerful towns in Ekiti. In August 1855, the people of Ara-Ekiti committed mass suicide, under the leadership of **Chief Elejofi**, to avoid getting enslaved by Ibadan. Thereafter, the town became a shadow of itself.

Today, Ara-Ekiti is home to many traditional rulers, including the Alara of Ara-Ekiti.

Micheal Ogungbemi, the Chairman of **Ajoni Local Council Development Area**, confirmed the incident to newsmen. **Ogungbemi** said that he had mobilized local security outfits including **the Amotekun corps** to comb the forest in a bid to arrest the perpetrators.

The **Amotekun corps** is a regional security outfit, founded on January 9, 2020, in **Ibadan, Oyo State**. The **Amotekun corps** has bases in all the six States of the South Western, Nigeria. The official name of the **corps** is **Western Nigeria Security Network** (WNSN). ‘*WNSN*’ and the ‘*Amotekun corps*’ are used inter-changeably.

The word “Amotekun” originates from the Yoruba language and it translates to “*One that looks like a leopard.*” (The term “**amotekun**” specifically refers to a *cheetah*, although it is sometimes mistakenly associated with a *leopard*.)

The name reflects the *agility and vigilance of the cheetah*, symbolizing the outfit's commitment to safeguarding the community.

The decision to set up WNSN was taken, by all the six State Governors, at the Regional Security Summit, held in Ibadan, Oyo State in **June 2019**. The Governors had come together for participating in a meeting of the Commission for **Development Agenda for Western Nigeria (DAWN)**.

The members of WNSN were drawn from local hunters, the **Oodua Peoples Congress (OPC)**, **Agbekoya Society**, **Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC)**, and vigilante groups.

OPC is a Yoruba nationalist, regionalist, and socio-cultural organization, for reviving Yoruba heritage and culture. The organization is based in southwestern Nigeria. The OPC has also been involved in the fight against crime and insecurity in the region.

The **Agbekoya** (means "*the farmers who reject suffering*" in Yoruba language) Society of Nigeria is a Yoruba farmers and hunters association.

To help curb security challenges in the region, the OPC and '**Dr. Adegbenro Ogunlana**, the *Secretary General of Agbekoya Society worldwide*' have called on the Nigerian Government

- to make provisions for arm for their members to contribute meaningfully to the fight against insecurity;
- to have transparency, and to stop cutting corners, in the installation of traditional rulers in the Southwest.

The **Ekiti Council of Traditional Rulers** has called on the Government **to empower traditional rulers** to secure communities.

The **Amotekun corps** assists police, other security agencies, and traditional rulers in combating terrorism, banditry, armed robbery and kidnapping. The **corps** also helps in settling herdsmen and farmers contentions in the region.

WNSN recruited 1,320 local hunters, who carried '**Dane guns**'. They operated in about 52 deadly blackspots all over the southwest region. The operatives were provided with 133 vehicles and 600 motorcycles.

Probably during the 18th century, Europeans living along the west African coast used to import long-barreled flintlock musket from Dano-Norwegian traders. Today the term “**Dane gun**” is used to generally describe any indigenously made firearm for hunting. Dane guns are produced in large numbers by local blacksmiths, and are used mostly for hunting game, replacing traditional weapons such as the bow and spear.

WNSN has been a subject of controversy since its inception. On 13 January 2020, the Nigeria police warned that they would arrest any operative of WNSN that carries illegal arms. On **14 January 2020**, the Federal government of Nigeria declared **Operation Amotekun** as an illegal operation, stating that it is **not backed by the Nigerian constitution**. However, on **23 January 2020**, the Vice President of Nigeria, **Yemi Osinbajo**, met with the six **State Governors** of the south-western Nigeria and they all agreed to work together towards the progress of **Operation Amotekun**.

Oba Olatunde David Olushola, the secretary of **Majority Obas of Ekiti Land** (MOBEL) and **Onikun of Ikun-Ekiti**, who condemned the killing of the traditional rulers, said the time had come for the government **to localize security system** in order to address the growing insecurity in the land. He added that the two traditional rulers - **Oba Babatunde Ogunsakin** and **Oba Samuel Olatunji** - were active members of MOBEL.

The word “Onikun” is a title given to a traditional ruler in Yoruba land, Nigeria. It is a combination of two words: “**Oni**” which means “owner” and “**Kun**” *which means “land”*. The title is used to refer to the ruler of Ikun-Ekiti, a town located in Ekiti State.

Moba (Population: 0.21 Mn - 2020 estimate) is a Local Government Area of Ekiti State (Population: 3.1 Mn), and its headquarters is in the town of **Otun** (Population: 44,451). (Ekiti's capital is **Ado-Ekiti** (Population: 0.425 Mn (2012)) **Ado-Ekiti** is approximately 41 Km away from **Ikun**, a locality of **Moba**. The distance from **Ikun** to Nigeria's capital **Abuja** is approximately 279 Km. **Moba** (LGA) had eleven wards named Otun I, Otun II, Otun III, Igogo I, Igogo II, Erinmope I, Erinmope II, Ikun I, Ikun II, Osun and Osan. **Ikun** is a locality in **Moba**, situated near the localities of **Ikosu** and **Ijesha-Iye**.

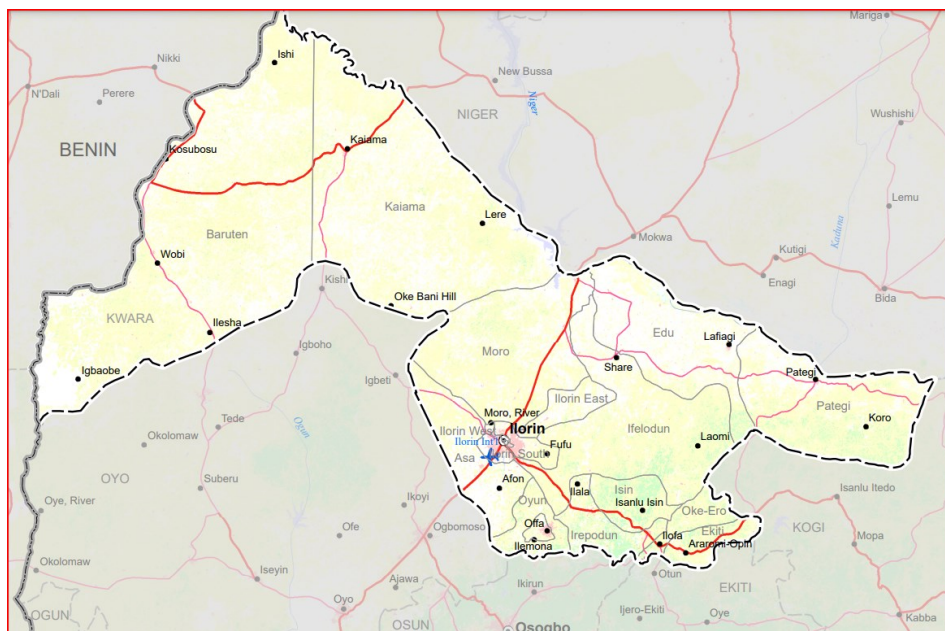
Olatunde David Olushola has asked the government to localize security systems to address the sense of insecurity among the people. The **Ekiti Parapo (Parapo** means “blend”), a group of indigenes from Ekiti state, has condemned the killing of the traditional rulers and demanded the signing of the **Hunters Bill**. The bill is aimed at empowering local hunters to assist in providing security in the state. The group believes that the bill will help to curb the rising insecurity in the state.

February 1, 2024: On Thursday night, armed men (*un-identified till today, February 3*) stormed the palace of **Segun Aremu**, a retired army general and monarch whose official title is the **Olukoro of Koro**, in **Kwara state**, shot him dead and abducted his wife and two other persons.



Segun Aremu was shot dead in his palace on Thursday, February 1, 2024

Governor **AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq** said that the authorities would catch those responsible.



Kwara State of Nigeria: Koro is in the eastern-end of Kwara; The largest city: Ilorin

Reference: <https://www.unocha.org/publications/map/nigeria/nigeria-reference-map-kwara-state-26-december-2018>



*Nigeria: showing **Kwara State**; **Ekiti State** is a Southern neighbor of Kwara*

Kwara State is **Yoruba**, with significant **Nupe**, **Bariba** and **Fulani** minorities. Kwara's economy is based on production of coffee, cotton, groundnut, cocoa, oil palm, and kola nut crops. Other key industries are services, especially in the city of Ilorin, and the livestock herding and ranching of cattle, goats, and sheep.

KIDNAPPINGS of SCHOOL CHILDREN and TEACHERS: Earlier this week, kidnappers seized **five schoolchildren and four teachers** in **Emure Local Council** of **Ekiti state**, demanding a ransom of 100 Mn (\$110,000) for their release. The school bus, of **Apostolic Faith Nursery/Primary School**, was going towards **Eporo-Ekiti-community**, when the incident happened. The school is owned and controlled by the **Apostolic Faith Mission (AFM)**. **AFM State Headquarters** is located in **Ado-Ekiti**, the capital of the State. The **Headquarters** is in a posh area of the capital, beside the state offices of **United Bank for Africa (UBA)** and **National Directorate of Employment (NDE)**, and on the banks of **Ajilosun river**.

Ado-Ekiti is a city of 425,000 people (2012) in Ekiti State, Southwest Nigeria. **Ado**, is the capital of Ekiti State and the State's largest city.

ABDUCTIONS from ABUJA: **Six sisters** who had been abducted, along with **Mansur Al-Kadriyar**, their father, for ransom on **January 2, 2024** from their home in Bwari suburb of the capital, **Abuja**. The bandits later released the father of the girls to look for the ransom to release his daughters. After about two weeks in captivity, the bandits killed **Nabeeha**, one of the girls, over the inability of the family to pay the ransom demanded. **Nabeeha** was a final year university student. The abductors increased the ransom to N100 Mn and threatened to kill more girls if the money was not paid.

During the search, **Abdulfatai Al-Kadriyar, Mansur's younger brother**, who led a **joint police-army operation** in a forest in northern Nigeria. to the location of the bandits, was killed during a gun battle with the bandits. Two police officers who engaged the bandits in a shootout were also injured. The remaining five girls regained freedom on Saturday night, **January 20, 2024** after spending 18 days in captivity.

On **January 31, 2024**, two teenage sisters aged 14 and 16 were kidnapped by gunmen in the Guita community of **Chikakore, located in Kubwa, Bwari Area Council of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja**. The kidnappers demanded a **ransom of N30 Mn** for the safe return of the girls. Despite efforts by vigilantes to trace the kidnappers, no leads were found. As of February 5, 2024, the girls have not been rescued yet.
