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The Sunday Igboho I know by Babafemi Ojudu.

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1. It was in 2009. The Appeal Court sitting in Ilorin ordered a rerun in a number of polling units in the election between Segun Oni of PDP and Dr Kayode Fayemi of ACN. Oni had in the main election and the election

2. petition tribunal that followed been declared winner of the gubernatorial contest. Our party, ACN contested this, hence the declaration of a rerun. The election which came three months after the Appeal Court judgement was like war. The PDP ruling at the Federal level did not

3. want to lose Ekiti and the opposition ACN led and financed by Bola Ahmed Tinubu wanted to take Ekiti by all means. A few days to the election, we got an intelligence report that the PDP big wigs had perfected a plan to unleash thugs recruited from across Yoruba land on Ekiti.

4. The plan was to kill and maim as many as possible, snatch ballot boxes and win by any means possible. Tinubu summoned me to Lagos and said Femi, "I have conducted a scientific opinion poll. You people can win this election. The only snag however is they are deploying state security

5. as well as thugs against you. State security men we can handle (and he did creatively handle them) but how do you handle thugs?"

I then suggested we dissuade them by engagement and inducements. After all they are in the business only for the money and not for ideological

6. reasons. We reached out to both Ade Basket in Akure and Fada Geri in Ondo. Both were dreaded in political circles. We had a series of meetings with them and were able to squeeze an agreement with them that they will not make themselves available to PDP to hire I got them to even

7. sign documents for me that they were going to stay off Ekiti elections. The biggest headache for us then was Sunday Igboho who we learnt has been hired and paid by a Senator from Osun to come and cause mayhem in Ekiti. Tinubu instructed we must get him at all cost.

8. Six days to the election we began our search for him. Eventually we met someone who had his number. I put a call through to him and he agreed to meet with me in Ibadan. We scheduled an appointment and had a meeting at a small hotel not far from Premier Hotel. Tinubu has sent me

9. to him that he will like to have a meeting with him, I told him. He said he will love to meet him as he has heard a lot of good things about him too. The problem he said is he is PDP and not ACN. I said that precisely is the reason why he wanted to meet with him. He asked if I

10. can keep it a secret and I said why not? Papa Adedibu, and our Osun Senator, he said must not learn about his meeting Tinubu. I told him there is no way they will know except it leaks from his side. He agreed to a meeting on Thursday preceding the election. I reported back to

11. Tinubu who then relocated from his base in Lagos to Sunview Hotel in Akure. Igboho drove down alone at about 10.00 pm. I and Tinubu has a dialogue with him. "Igboho," Tinubu said, "I have heard a lot about your bravery. The Ekiti people have suffered 2 long under the rule of PDP

12. They are looking for change. I learnt you have been hired to make this impossible. I have invited you to plead with you to allow the poll to be conducted peacefully. If after that the PDP wins fine. If the ACN wins, all well and good". Tinubu went on and on lecturing him on the

13. beauty of democracy and unencumbered electoral process. By the time Tinubu finished with him, he became sober and contrite. "Baba", he said, "I have heard you and I am pleased with what you have said. Whatever you want me to do I will do even though I have collected money

14. from the other side" This was the extent Tinubu went to secure Ekiti for his party, ACN. Most of this, the candidate, Fayemi, himself was not even aware of.

15. Tinubu then beckoned me to follow him to the bedroom of the suit he occupied in the hotel. "Femi this guy appear sincere. It does appear we have dissuaded him."

"Thank you Baba" Igboho said with a smile across his face as soon as he received a golden handshake for agreeing

16. to not kill in Ekiti as they had planned. He then said that he will be in Ekiti on the eve of the election but when it is 2.00 am I should put a call through to him. He will put his phone on speaker and I should tell him I am a police AIG and that the police has discovered

17. his presence in Ekiti and will be raiding in 30 minutes time.

This was the situation when at 2:00 am I did exactly what Igboho instructed me to do and he and his men fled town. Two hours after leaving I got a call from him. They did head count and found out two of them missing

18. A week before the election, we had reserved and paid for all the rooms in all the hotels in Ekiti. The money ran into several millions. Tinubu, as usual, paid for this. The strategy was to ensure no thug or any undesirable element had a place to stay in the state.

19. When Igboho and his band of 50 thugs arrived Ekiti that Friday we were able to monitor them till they were taken to be accommodated over night in government house due to lack of hotel accommodation in the state. We found the missing two had gone to town in search of women.

20. At about 5.00 am that morning I picked them up in front of the Fire Station at Fajuyi Park , took them to my house and by 6.00 am got a driver to take them out of town. We had the re-run elections. It wasn't entirely peaceful. But thuggery and violence was largely reduced.

22.This was my encounter with Sunday Adeyemo alias Sunday Igboho , lately crowned a hero in Yoruba land , by the reign of terror by herders and bandits.

He has that occasional conscience you can appeal to. Let those who can rein in the herders do so and make the forests and

22.highways safe again. ctivities.

Let farmers be able to carry out their occupation without fear of kidnap,murder and rape. Let us find a modern and permanent solution to this issue of itinerant herding that pitches a group of Nigerians against the other. Let us not ethnicise

23.criminality.A criminal is a criminal and a crime is a crime whether perpetrated by Fulani, Yoruba , Igbo, Ijaw , Junkun, Bachama or Ibariba. We should do everything possible to stave off this crisis and stop beating the drums of war before it reaches a crescendo.