RESPONSE TO THE OPEN LETTER OF OTUNBA DARE ADELEKAN: OPERATIONALIZING A YORUBALAND DEFENCE PACT AGAINST SCHOOL ABDUCTIONS AND TERRORISM

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Otunba Dare Adelekan's open letter correctly identifies the Ogbomoso school abductions as a direct assault on Yorubaland's most valuable industry: education. The letter is a timely sovereign cry. This response translates that cry into an operational framework for the three pillars he identified: Governors, Retired Generals, and Traditional Obas.

1. The Nature of the Threat

The May 2026 attacks on schools in the Ahoro-Esinle/Yawota axis of Ogbomoso, and the subsequent abduction of the Oyo school principal, confirm a deliberate shift in terrorist tactics into the Southwest. This is not random crime. It is strategic. The objective is to:

1. **Induce mass fear** to collapse school attendance, as seen in Ogbomoso where attendance fell below 20% after the incident.

2. **Destroy human capital** by attacking the pipeline of Yoruba education and competitiveness.

3. **Exploit ungoverned spaces** in forest corridors and inter-state borders where state coordination is weak.

Akinade's _Communal Conflict and Violence: Response, Resolution and Prevention_ demonstrates that once school abductions take root, they become self-funding through ransom and self-replicating through fear.

2. Operationalizing the Three Pillars of Leadership

2.1 Executive Governors: Move from Amotekun to a Joint Theatre Command

Amotekun is a necessary first step, but it lacks a unified command and cross-border mandate. The governors of Oyo, Ogun, Osun, Ondo, Ekiti, Lagos, and liaison cells with Kwara and Kogi must:

1. **Establish a Southwest Joint Security Command** with a 24/7 intelligence fusion centre. Criminals do not respect state borders; neither should our response.

2. **Declare all schools within 10km of forest corridors as Safe School Zones** with daily joint patrols by police, NSCDC, Amotekun, and vetted local hunters.

3. **Activate the Safe Schools Protocol** requiring risk assessment, physical protection, and continuity of learning plans for every school. This aligns with Nigeria's adoption of the Safe Schools Declaration.

Akinade's Managing Strategic Security and Crime Prevention Models shows that fragmented responses fail. Unity of command and unity of effort are non-negotiable.

2.2 Retired Generals: Form an Emergency Advisory Council on Rural Counter-Terrorism
Yorubaland possesses retired generals with experience in counter-insurgency, intelligence, and civil-military operations. Their role should be:

1. **Develop a Yorubaland Rural Counter-Terrorism Doctrine** focused on forest denial, early warning, and rapid response.

2. **Audit and mentor** the tactical capacity of Amotekun and community vigilantes.

3. **Advise on the integration of technology** - drones, SIGINT, and GIS mapping - into rural security operations.

This is not about re-entering active service. It is about transferring institutional knowledge before it is lost.

2.3 Traditional Obas: Reclaim Domain Intelligence and Land Governance
The Oba is the custodian of land and people. No stranger settles without a footprint. Obas must:

1. **Activate domain intelligence networks** using hunters, vigilantes, and town unions to monitor forests, hamlets, and abandoned spaces.

2. **Enforce land occupancy mapping** as advised by Professor Akin Mabogunje in 2000. Every square meter of Yorubaland must have a registered custodian.

3. **Publicly sanction** any chief or community leader who harbours or fails to report suspicious occupants. Accountability must start at the community level.

Akinade's _Community Policing: Strategic Approaches In Crime Prevention* proves that community-owned intelligence is the most effective early warning system.

3. The Non-Negotiable Actions for the Next 30 Days

Action Lead Actor Timeline

- Convene an emergency Yorubaland Security Summit + Southwest Governors' Forum 7 days

- Map and clear all forest corridors within 10km of schools Joint Command + Obas 30 days

- Publish and operationalize the Yorubaland School Security Protocol Governors + Retired Generals 14 days

- Establish a public reward and protection scheme for informants + Joint Command 14 days

- Launch a regional counter-misinformation cell + Governors' Communication Teams 7 days

4. Why This Will Work

1**. It attacks the enablers**: finance, anonymity, and ungoverned spaces.

2**. It restores confidence**: Visible, coordinated presence returns children to classrooms.

3. **It preserves Yoruba identity**: Education remains our industry, our pride, and our weapon against poverty.

5. Conclusion

Otunba Adelekan is right: diplomatic silence is now complicity. History will judge this generation of Obas, Generals, and Governors not by their titles, but by whether they stopped the monster before it consumed Yorubaland.

Ogbomoso must be the last time terrorists touch our children. The resources exist. The intellect exists. The authority exists. What is required now is unity, speed, and resolve.

Let us defend the pride of Odùduwà with action, not only with words.

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