

OPINION STATEMENT ON BRIG-GEN. KUNLE TOGUN’S INTERVIEW: “S’WEST GOVERNORS PLAYING POLITICS WITH SECURITY”

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I have reviewed the interview granted by Brig.-Gen. Kunle Togun (reted.), former DMI, former DDG SSS, and ex-Chairman, Oyo Amotekun Corps. The piece is educative, instructive, and informative, and it raises urgent governance questions that South-West stakeholders must address without delay. My comments focus on the institutional and operational lessons, while avoiding ethnic generalizations that do not aid solutions.

1. Why It Is Educative

Gen. Togun educates the public on 3 security fundamentals:

1. Intelligence precedes action: He claims to have submitted threat analyses for Oyo/Yorubaland since 2014, and again as Amotekun Chairman, mapping vulnerabilities like Oyo National Park and Opara Forest Reserve. Citizens now see why “security votes” without threat-based planning is expenditure without outcome.
2. Training > Parade: His description of “hogwash training” at St. Andrew’s College, Oyo, and Amotekun vehicles parked by roadsides teaches that equipment without doctrine, fieldcraft, and discipline cannot confront kidnappers/insurgents.
3. OPSEC in crisis: His criticism of public statements during the Oriire school abduction — “If they had truly been cornered, did they need to announce it publicly?” — is a core lesson in Operational Security. Premature announcements can endanger hostages.

2. Why It Is Instructive

The interview instructs governors, legislators, and security managers on what to fix:

1. De-politicize security: The recurring claim that “most governors are pursuing politics, not security” instructs that Sec. 14(2)(b) CFRN 1999 places “security and welfare of the people” above politics. Security votes must be audited and tied to measurable threat reduction.
2. Technology + Surprise: “You catch terrorists by surprise. Surprise is a principle of war.” This instructs Amotekun + NPF + DHQ to deploy drones, ISR, geo-fencing, and real-time intelligence instead of static roadblocks.
3. Professionalize Amotekun: His call to “purge personnel and remove undesirable elements” is instructive for all state security outfits. Recruitment, vetting, curriculum, and board oversight must be standardized across the 6 South-West states.

3. Why It Is Informative

The interview informs public debate with first-hand claims on:

1. Threat analyses submitted to Gov. Akeredolu, Gov. Makinde, and the South-West Governors' Forum via retired officers.
2. Specific vulnerable terrains: Oyo National Park spanning Kwara-Ogbomoso-Igboho-Saki; Opara Forest Reserve >250,000 hectares.
3. Timeline of warnings since 2014 and lack of feedback/action.

These claims, if verified, should trigger immediate legislative oversight by State Houses of Assembly and the National Assembly Committee on National Security.

4. Critical Note on Framing

Security in Nigeria is multi-causal: porous borders, transnational criminal networks, climate/land-use pressures, intelligence gaps, poverty, and weak community policing. Reducing a complex insurgency/banditry problem to a single group or "agenda" oversimplifies it and undermines national cohesion. Nigeria's response must target criminality, not ethnicity, in line with the Constitution and international law. Credible security policy is built on facts, forensics, and intelligence, not profiling.

5. Actionable Recommendations for South-West Governors

To move from rhetoric to results, I recommend:

1. Audit & Publish: SW Governors' Forum should commission an independent audit of all threat analyses received since 2014 and publish an implementation status report within 60 days.
2. Amotekun Reform Act: Harmonize law, training, and SOPs across 6 states. Institute of Security Nigeria can support curriculum development on patrol, ambush, hostage rescue, and human rights.
3. Deploy Technology: Fund drones, cell-broadcast alerts, and forest reserve monitoring centers. "Buying vehicles" must shift to "buying intelligence."
4. Activate National Citizens' Alert System: As advocated earlier. Real-time verified alerts from NEMA/NCC/NBC would reduce casualties in incidents like Oriire and Iluke.
5. OPSEC Protocol: Governments must stop announcing tactical details during ongoing hostage/operations. Let security agencies speak after rescue.

Conclusion

Whether one agrees with Gen. Togun's conclusions or not, his warning is a patriotic signal: Governance of security in the South-West must shift from politics to professionalism. The value of his interview is that it forces us to ask: What happened to the threat analyses? What is the Amotekun training standard? How are citizens being warned in real time?

A secure South-West will not be built by press statements or parked vehicles. It will be built by intelligence-led policing, trained personnel, technology, and governors who act as Chief Security Officers, not chief politicians.

"Security is too important to be left to one agency, and too urgent to be left to politics."
Let us act before the next tragedy.

Stay Safe. Stay Informed. Stay Lawful.

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