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Elections in April will need security. Photo: NAN

Senators escape assassination

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By Jethro Ibileke
March 22, 2011 05:39AM

Fears that the April polls may be marred by violence were recently reinforced by the attempted assassination of two senators in Edo and Anambra states. Ehigie Uzamere of the Action Congress of Nigeria, who represents Edo South Senatorial district was attacked on Sunday and his police orderly killed, while Annie Okonkwo of Anambra central was set upon yesterday by thugs wielding machetes.

Mr. Uzamere told journalists yesterday that he was attacked on Zabayo Street in Benin City, the state capital, between 7.30 and 8 pm while in the company of his driver and police orderly.

"As soon as I came down to meet my aides in the other vehicle, I heard a gun shots. Immediately, we heard the gun shots, we took cover, and we tried to identify where the gun shots were coming from. In the process, my orderly, Sergeant Onyechi was gunned down, my driver, Mohammed, was shot at the hip."

He said men of the special anti-robbery squad (SARS), responded promptly to a distress call and exchanged fire with the suspected assassins, killing one of them.

Sadly, the mobile police orderly who was shot in the chest died and the driver is receiving treatment to the bullet wounds on his hip. The bodies of the police orderly and the suspected assassin were reportedly deposited at an undisclosed mortuary.

Immune to gunshot

Mr. Okonkwo, the Accord Party senatorial candidate for Anambra Central in the April polls, was

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attacked during a campaign tour. An eye witness told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Awka that at least one person died in the incident.

The eye witness said trouble started at about 9:15 a.m. when the senator arrived Eke-Awka market to address traders who had earlier received a transformer from him. "There was jubilation when the senator arrived," the source said.

However, a man suddenly stood up and began chanting songs in support of the All Progressive Grand Alliance, prompting security officers attached to Mr Okonkwo to whisk him away. The thug allegedly returned to the scene of the rally with others armed with machetes and rushed in the direction of Mr. Okonkwo, "The senator's orderly shot him, but he rose from the ground and the orderly had to shoot him the second time," the source said. People were forced to run for safety while the senator hurriedly left the scene.

The state's Police Public Relations Officer, Emeka Chukwuemeka, who confirmed the incident, said that investigation was ongoing on the matter.

Mr. Chukwuemeka confirmed that the senator had laid a complaint about attempts on his life when he visited the station in torn clothes.

"The state CID is conducting thorough investigation and until they conclude their investigation then we can not issue any statement, but I do not think there was any death recorded," Mr. Chukwuemeka said.

Mr. Chukwuemeka said Sunday Agbo is receiving treatment, but that nobody died in the incident.

"Uchenna Obiora was also arrested in connection with the incident and is presently under police custody.

"The knife belonging to Agbo was recovered and he is receiving treatment in a hospital," the police spokesman added.

Assassins caught

In the case of Mr. Uzamere, the senator said the police arrested two of the suspected assassins yesterday at Ugbiyoko, a suburb of Benin City.

"This afternoon, the police called me and told me that two of the assassins were caught somewhere around Deeper Life camp ground, Ugbiyoko, and I went there with my party chairman. Getting there, I asked the young man if he knows me, and he said 'yes'. I asked him who asked him to kill me. He did not reply to my question, but he said, 'Sir, you have helped me before.'"

Mr. Uzamere who said that he won his mandate to represent the people of Edo South senatorial district by merit, called on the police to carry out a thorough investigation to get to the root of those behind the attempt on his life, with a view to bringing them to justice.

Chairman of Edo State chapter of the Action Congress of Nigeria, (ACN), Thomas Okosun said that Mr Uzamere got his ticket on merit, calling on all Edo people to curse those behind the dastardly act.

The commissioner of police in the state, David Omojola confirmed the incident to journalists, including the death of the police sergeant and the arrest of two suspected assassins.

"You are aware that we lost a police officer in the attempt. We should give respect to the dead. I have lost a gallant officer who left behind a family. All I can say is that we have reached an appreciable stage in the case."

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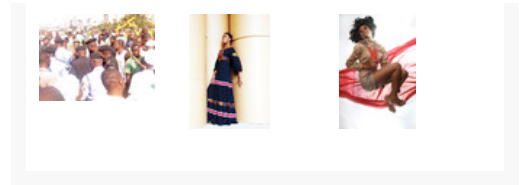
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Its only GOD that would protect us during dis. April election polls..

Posted by [Ken](#) on Mar 22 2011

Why is it dat their aide are alway the once payin wit their life? All dis ritualist who call themselves our leaders are they above death? Certainly no. One day na one day.



Posted by **TATA** on Mar 22 2011

they should pay up their debt and stop disturbing us...

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