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Gunmen attack Bayelsa House speaker’s home, kill one



TUESDAY, 03 AUGUST 2010 01:21 SAMUEL ESE

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The growing violent attacks in Bayelsa have claimed another life at Okunbiri in Sagbama local government area in a midnight attack on the country home of the speaker of the state House of Assembly, Nestor Binabo.

BusinessDay reliably gathered that the armed assailants stormed Binabo’s house shooting sporadically into the air and allegedly threw dynamites into the compound but they did not detonate. The shooting coming at about 12.10a.m Monday left the local people stunned but one Takpo Agbaigho caught a stray bullet and died while another victim who was also hit by stray bullet is said to be

receiving treatment in a hospital.

The rising violence may have struck fear into top government officials as some commissioners are said to be relocating their families outside the cycle of violence in Bayelsa. A dependable source told BusinessDay that some have taken their families to Abuja, the second time this year, the first being during the violence that greeted the impeachment of the former deputy governor, Peremobowei Ebebi. However, the fear being expressed by most Bayelsans is the inability of the police to contain the situation, saying since violence erupted in the state the police have not effected even one arrest.

A number of Bayelsans said the police have lost touch with reality. Their comments are coming as men of the Joint Task Force (JTF) headquartered in Yenagoa have intensified patrols along major streets in the state capital.

The Bayelsa police spokesman, Eguavon Emokpai, an ASP, who confirmed the incident, said the police were investigating the matter. Emokpai, who also described the recent shootings in Yenagoa, the state capital as “cult related”, said that no arrest had been made. It would be recalled that about seven persons lost their lives at different spots in shootings in Yenagoa last week.

Meanwhile, the Action Congress (AC) while reacting to the spate of killings in recent times in the state, called for a state of emergency to arrest the situation. According to the acting chairman of the party, Ebikibina Miriki, “the party is worried over the spate of killing in the state where there is heavy presence of the Joint Military Task Force, the police and other security operatives.

“The recent attack by unknown gunmen at Imgbi Road, the attack on the governor’s family home and the attack on the speaker’s home are serious security concerns in the state,” Miriki said. He called on the inspector-general of police and the presidency to act swiftly to arrest the situation

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