

MALACHIY UZENDU, Abuja

Arraigning the duo were the State Security Services (SSS) which alleged that the journalists contravened sections 51 (1) (a) of the Criminal Code Act, Chapter 77, Laws of the Federation, 1990 and punishable under section 51 (1) of the same act.

The two journalists pleaded not guilty to the charge which was broken into three different counts for each of the accused journalists by Mr. Salihu Aliyu, Director of Public Prosecution (DPP).

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CHARLES TAYLOR LEAVES
SILENCE FOR TRIAL IN
THE HAGUE - NEWS



Photo: Kingston Daniel

KOLA ADEPOJU, Abeokuta

had earlier declared missing. *Daily Clampton* had yesterday exclusively reported the sudden disappearance of Oyedola since last Friday's fierce clash between two rival cults, which left two suspected cultists

dead. However, shock and disbelief became the lots of students and staff of OOU as well as the host community when the lifeless and already decomposing body of Oyedola was found at an

The offensive odour which enveloped the vicinity as well as the unusual gathering of flies

Acting State Commissioner of Police, Mr John Haruna who disclosed this in an interview with newsmen said the arrests were effected during a joint military/police operation at Silas Works Street, Fegge.

Hartuna was deployed from Lagos State Police Command last month to lead the new offensive against MASSOB members in Onitsha.

Hannan said his team cordoned Silas ?Works Street early morning Tuesday for effective operation. He said that there was a shoot-out between the Joint Operation team and MASSOB members where two persons were killed and 69 arrested.

The Acting CP said five rifles, and cartridges, were recovered from MASSOB members while one of them an A.K 47, snatched from a Mobile Police Man in March this year was also recovered.

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CHUKWUDI ACHIE, *Enugu*
and ALPHONSUS NWEZE,
Onitsha

**First Inland Bank
lists \$19.69 shares
at stock market**

NEWS

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MASSOB

He said there would be Joint Operation with the military to rid parks in Anambra State particularly Onitsha of touts, either of National Associations of Road Transport Owners (NARTO), or other unions.

Haruna said that there would be a meeting with all associations in parks to formally tell them to quit the parks in the state.

"We will enforce the quit order rigorously. Before the week runs out, all the parks in the state will come fully under the police control" Haruna said.

Residents of Fegge, said they were held hostage for several hours by soldiers who were searching for MASSOB members.

One of the residents who pleaded anonymity said people were subjected to corporal punishment including lying inside drainage system.

The source told *Daily Champion* that more than half of those arrested were not MASSOB members, but innocent people who were going about their lawful duties.

However, Edeson Samuel, MASSOB Area II administrator dismissed the claim by Haruna, saying that those arrested were not MASSOB members but law-abiding citizens.

According to him, "But for police and the soldiers to show that they are doing something, they are now arresting and secretly executing ~~some~~ *some* ~~people~~ *people*" said Edeson in a telephone interview.

Edeson also said it was not true that arms and ammunition were recovered from MASSOB.

He raised alarm that there is "a taint of ethnic vendetta" in the operation of the soldiers posted in Onitsha in the wake of the crisis, assuring however,

that "no amount of force can bend the will of the people."

Meanwhile, Anambra politician and member of the Board of Trustees of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Chief Chris Uba has denied media reports linking him to the recent mayhem in the state in which about five people were killed and properties worth millions of naira destroyed saying the governor was uncomfortable with the impact he (Uba) was making in the state with his recent local government tours on behalf of the Peoples Democratic Party.

Uba, who was reacting to reports in leading newspapers (not the *Daily Champion*) linking him to the crisis said it has also become fashionable for those seeking "undue, underserved and cheap" popularity to resort to use of his name to advertise themselves on the pages of newspapers.

The PDP chieftain emphasised that the sudden change of attitude towards him could only have been occasioned by the masive in-roads he had recently made into the state's political terrain with his tour of the 21 local government areas, describing it as "a panic reaction".

Said he, "The recent somersault can only be, a panic reaction engendered by a massive in-road which the Peoples Democratic Party, Anambra State, is making in the state following the continuing reconciliatory, sensitization and mobilization tour of Chief Chris Uba in the 21 local government areas of Anambra State, which contrary to the negative expectations, is yielding positive political dividends."

Advising Governor Peter Obi not to abandon the path of peace and progress, Uba categorically denied having any hand in the Onitsha crisis and urged his supporters to ignore laughable and empty allegations contained in the aforementioned publications being the handiwork of an idle mind.

On the allegations credited in one of the reports to one Mazi Chris Nwocha stating that he (Uba) had used the National Association of Road Transport Owners (NARTO), to start the trouble, Uba categorically denied any links to the group pointing out that the inconsistencies in Mazi Mocha's claims clearly gave them away as "blatant and sponsored" falsehood.

First Inland

OMA CHUKA

FIRST Inland Bank has unveiled plans to increase branch network from 146 to 200 branches within the coming year in order to explore fully the opportunities in retail banking. Managing Director/Chief Executive officer of the bank, Okey Nwosu stated this yesterday at the listing of First Inland Bank's 9.69 billion shares on the Nigeria Stock Exchange (NSE).

A ~~sub~~ *sub* ~~and~~ *and* ~~other~~ *other* ~~was~~ *was* ~~included~~ *included* ~~system~~ *system* ~~integration~~ *integration*

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When his plea was being taken, Mr. Aruleba told the presiding justice Babs Kuwemi that he did not even understand the charges levelled against him.

If convicted under the CCA, the maximum sentence to be bagged by the two journalists