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### Thugs attack Gov Akala's convoy

DELE OGUNYEMI, *Ibadan*

Governor Christopher Adebayo Alao-Akala of Oyo State was visibly shocked yesterday when some hoodlums suspected to be political thugs from Molete axis attacked the governor's convoy at Bodija-Iso-Pako area of the popular Bodija Market, Ibadan while no fewer than two people were feared dead in the ensuing commotion.

The governor, who was in the area for the commissioning of a rehabilitated road to mark his 100 days in office, was about to leave the venue when the hoodlums carrying a big banner of Alhaji Lamidi Adedibu, the veteran politician and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) chieftain, suddenly blocked the governor's convoy, demanding for ransom.

The hoodlums maintained that the governor would not leave the occasion until he released to them their mobilisation money as earlier agreed with the organisers of the ceremony.

However, the governor's convoy continued to maintain its homeward-bound movement to the consternation of the hoodlums who subsequently resorted to throwing stones and pebbles at the convoy comprising about six vehicles including the press crew bus and a Toyota Corolla car registration number ABUJA XC 623 ABJ convening AIT crew which were attacked in the process. Some people in the governor's entourage including journalists sustained varied degrees of injuries.

It took timely intervention of some policemen attached to the governor's convoy before the hoodlums could be prevented from attacking the vehicle conveying Governor Alao-Akala.

An unconfirmed source disclosed that the hoodlums were allegedly mobilized by a local government chairman in the area with a view to impressing the governor with a large crowd. The source said the hoodlums had been promised some amount of money, only to renege on the agreement at the last minute.

Countryman

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