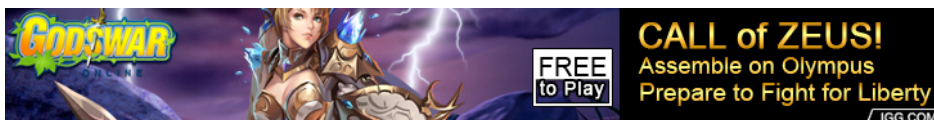


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**Nigeria: Gunmen Attack Soludo's Convoy**

Malachy Uzendu

13 January 2010

Abuja — Barely 24 hours after he petitioned the police alleging threat to his life, gubernatorial candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in the February 6 governorship election in Anambra State, Prof. Chukwuma Soludo and his campaign convoy were on Monday, attacked by political thugs in Ogidi, leaving one of his supporters dead.

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Soludo through one Steven Unachukwu had last Saturday petitioned the Commissioner of Police in Anambra State, Philemon Leha, alleging that some politicians in the state were after his life and had in fact attacked him and his supporters.

In the petition which was also forwarded to the office of the Inspector-General of Police (IGP), it was alleged that the attackers who were believed to be political thugs had swooped on his campaign rally in Agulu home town of Governor Peter Obi.

The armed thugs who stormed the venue of Soludo's campaign ground were armed with dangerous weapons and chanted slogans in praise of one of the front line candidates (names withheld).

But while the investigations had commenced the PDP candidate's convoy was again attacked on Monday night as they were about entering St. Phillip's Catholic Church Ogidi, venue of a scheduled rally where his supporters had already gathered.

Daily Champion gathered that trouble started when Soludo arrived at Ogidi with his campaign team and headed towards the venue of the rally.

The vehicle conveying him and a few others was said to have already moved into the premises when some youths came from nowhere to block the entrance of the venue thereby preventing the remaining vehicles in the convoy from entering the venue.

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The development was said to have caused a disagreement between the hoodlums and Soludo's supporters who immediately ran to the place to make way for their candidate's entourage, leading to

exchange of hot words between the two opposing camps and disrupting the movement of the convoy and attracting the Police and other security personnel attached to the PDP candidate who tried in vain to peacefully disperse the thugs.

As the crises intensified, gun shots were said to have been fired into the crowd, prompting the Police to shoot in the air to disperse the crowd. When calm returned, one of the supporters of the PDP candidate had been gunned down.

Both the dead Soludo supporter and those who attacked his convoy are yet to be identified at the time of filling this report.

However, Mr. Bonaventure Melah, Media Assistant to Soludo confirmed the development, saying it was a shock to their team.

He called for calm from the supporters saying "the police have been contacted and we have every confidence they will do their job."

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Charlotte



Profession: enseignante
Age: 27

Situation de famille: **Single**

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Age: 30

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