

# ACD, others condemn murder of guber aspirant

**T**he Advanced Congress of Democrats (ACD), has condemned the assassination on Sunday of Mr. Jesse C. Aruku, a former chairman of Bassa local government area of Plateau state by unknown persons even as it expressed concern over the "levity" shown in the matter.

Mr. Jesse, a gubernatorial aspirant was murdered in cold blood and dumped in a bush between his council area and Kabong in Jos North local government area of the state a day after he attended a political rally in the area.

A close associate of the deceased who spoke to journalists said Mr. Jesse was found stab with three wounds while there was a rope tied around his neck

national chairman, media and publicity of the ACD, Lai Mohammed, said that after the ACD had its launch on Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> of June, the PDP too held its own in the same local government the next day, Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> of July.

"At the said rally", Mohammed said, "the PDP stalwarts unleashed mayhem on the entire community attacking anybody on sight. In the melee that ensued, the late Jesse was abducted by the PDP thugs and subsequently murdered."

He said the same rampaging PDP thugs in the process attacked policemen shooting one of them in the thigh.

Mohammed said about 12 persons were arrested in connection with the attack but a new twist was introduced into the matter when all arrested persons were allegedly released on bail on orders from above.

"The ACD is very concerned that a matter as serious as a grievous attack on a policeman and the assassination of a gubernatorial aspirant being treated with such levity. We therefore call for a thorough investigation," Mohammed said.

Mr. Jesse's murder has attracted series of condemn-

By Emmanuel Bello & Aliyu Abubakar

ations from politicians and other members of the public. *Daily Trust* gathered that associates and sympathizers have been trooping to his home to commiserate with his wife and family members.

Mr. Osita Nwachukwu of the Congress of Nigerian Political Parties (CNPP), said: "We condemn this act completely and hope we are not back to the days of political assassinations when Harry Marshall, Dikibo and ~~he~~ all lost their lives. The government must be vigilant."

The recently launched Democratic People's Party (DPP) also called on the government to investigate the incident. "The government should beef up security around political actors and they should not be discriminatory," Isma'il Sani, the party's Director of

Publicity said.

Assassination attempts and other politically motivated attacks have in recent times been on the increase in Plateau state. About three weeks ago, Arc. Pam Dung Gyang, an ACD governorship aspirant in the state nearly lost his life to unknown assassins.

Recently, an Assistant Superintendent of Police, David Michael and a commercial motor cyclist whose identity is yet to be established, lost their lives.

Other prominent politicians threatened recently by alleged assassination attempts include, Victor Lar, an ANPP member of the House of Representatives and a gubernatorial aspirant in the state; Mr. Steve Marah, a former senatorial aspirant; Mr. Dan Tenshak, a permanent secretary in the state government and Mr. Haruna Dariye, a businessman.

## Tenure of office: court orders Kalu to appear before it

By Ruby Rabin

**A** Federal High Court in Abuja yesterday asked the governor of Abia State, Orji Uzor Kalu, to appear before it next on Wednesday to explain why he should not be committed to prison for disobeying its order stopping him from reducing the tenure of councillors and chairmen in the state's local councils.

Justice Stephen Adah who gave the order said since the governor might not be physically present in court, the state's Attorney General, Chief Solo Akume, should offer formal explanations on why the court should not move against him for flouting court orders.

Five councillors in Abia state had commenced the proceedings against the governor and his Attorney General for dissolving the local councils in the state and

setting up a caretaker committee to run the affairs of the councils in spite of an interim order that the status quo be maintained.

The councillors who are plaintiffs in the case include Chief Joseph Anawati, Prince Chijioko Christopher Joseph, Chief Rowland Ogbonna, Jerry Uzozike and Chief Ikochi Emenike.

The five councillors in the state had dragged the state governor, his Attorney General, the state House of Assembly, the state INEC, the Federal Attorney-General, the Inspector-General of Police, the Accountant General of the Federation and the PDP before the Federal High Court, Abuja, over plan to implement a law reducing their tenure of office from three to two years.