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21 November 2008

Posted to the web 21 November 2008

Yemi Bamidele
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A businessman and miner from Ekiti State, Mr. Femi Falegan, was shot dead by yet to be identified gunmen in Ibadan on Wednesday night. Falegan's friend, who was with him at the time of the attack, Senator Bode Ola, received gun shot wounds on his right leg. Senator Ola represented Ekiti Central Senatorial District in the National Assembly between 2003 and 2007.

The incident occurred at about 10 p.m. at the Adeoyo junction, along the popular M.K.O. Abiola Road (Ring Road) in the Oyo State capital. Witnesses said four persons were in the Toyota Camry XLE car marked Abuja GE 636 ABC, which Falegan rode in before they stopped at the Adeoyo junction to buy food. Falegan's driver and Personal Assistant had dropped from the car to buy food when the shots rang. They subsequently rushed to the scene of the attack, but met Falegan lying in the pool of blood just as Senator Ola was writhing in pains. The duo were instantly rushed to the University College Hospital (UCH), Ibadan for medical attention. But Falegan gave up the ghost before reaching the hospital. In an interview with journalists on the matter, the Personal Assistant to Senator Ola, Mr. Femi Fadahunsi described the incident as a clear case of assassination. He stated that prior to the incident, the deceased miner and his senator friend had gone to a meeting at Oritamefa with the community of a disputed mining site at Olode Village along Ibadan/Ife Expressway, which Falegan was interested in.

His words: "This is a clear case of assassination. Nothing was taken from the car apart from the car keys, the handsets of the two men and a ring belonging to Falegan. The ring was removed from his finger. I am aware that Falegan was having a problem at one of his mining fields; that informed the meeting they went for at UCH." Fadahunsi described the late Falegan as a peace-loving man insisting that the deceased miner must have been trailed from the hospital where he went for a meeting with the community head as the car they rode in belonged to the senator and not his own. Confirming the murder, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Oyo State Command, Mr. Ralph Ibeazor stated that officials of the State Criminal Investigations Department (SCID) had been directed to take over the matter.

While hoping to get to the roots of the incident, the police chief said that reports reaching him showed that the police detectives were

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