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## One killed, four others wounded in Ekiti violence

Written by Ralph Adekunle, Ado-Ekiti, Muideen Olaniyi & Misbahu Bashir, Abuja TUESDAY. 10 MARCH 2009

A member of Action Congress (AC) in Ekiti State, Ahmed Saddiq, was yesterday killed by thugs believed to be members of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) loyal to Senator Ayo Arise in Oye local government area of the state in a clash between the two political parties.

The violence, which also left four others seriously wounded, broke out when supporters of both parties were at each others throat on who was supposed to use the main town hall in Oye Ekiti that had earlier been booked by the AC for its programme about a week ago.

Dr Kayode Fayemi of the Action Congress (AC) was to use the hall for the launch of a free health care service in Oye Ekiti, when supporters and thugs of the PDP allegedly went wild claiming that they had booked the place for their political programme too.

Unsuspecting AC members coming from Ido/Osi were attacked in front of Mr. Arise's house in Oye Ekiti, and were shot by thugs in the confusion. The victims affected included a 70 year old woman who had been taken to a hospital after sustaining serious injuries.

Speaking with newsmen, an AC chieftain in the town, Mr. Bimbo Daramola, said it was a confirmation of the threat by Ayo Arise to unleash terror on the AC members in the town when the rerun election would take place.

Also reacting to the development, AC youth leader, Tope Longe, said they were surprised to see Arise's thugs and mobile policemen at the venue early in the morning yesterday, attacking AC members and those who came for the free health care services.

But in his reaction to the allegation, Senator Arise denied ever having a hand to disrupt Fayemi's gathering. He said he was to have a meeting with the chairman of the local government at 8am yesterday, and that was why his men had gone there to arrange for the venue at 7:40 am but met the AC medical personnel and chieftain who told them that they had already booked and paid for the venue a week ago.

According to him, before his men knew what was going on AC supporters had already mobilized to attack his men and the police men who escorted them to the venue.

Arise claimed that the AC members injured his personal assistant, his younger brother and vandalized his vehicle, a situation that made him to contact the state police commission, Mr. Chris Ola and the divisional police officer in charge of that area to take control of the situation.

In a telephone conversation with the Ekiti State Commissioner of Police, Mr. Chris Ola, he said the violence has not been reported to the command officially but learnt that there were shootings in the area.

Meanwhile, the Action Congress has called for the immediate redeployment of the Ekiti State Commissioner of Police Christ Ola, following violence that erupted at Oye Ekiti which led to the death of at least one AC supporter and left four others critically injured. The call was contained in a statement yesterday by the party's National Publicity Secretary, Alhaji Lai Mohammed. The party also called for an urgent action by the Inspector-General of Police to prevent an impending breakdown of law and order in the state, ahead of the forthcoming governorship election re-run.

When contacted, the Police Force Public Relations Officer, Emmanuel Ojukwu, an Assistant Commissioner of Police, said the Inspector General of Police did not receive the complaints of the party against the commissioner.

The PPRO urged politicians to always determine the cause of any matter objectively and to stop blaming the police. He said the CP is serving the entire people of the state and is fair to all.

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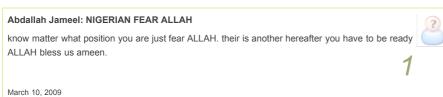
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March 10, 2009

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