

# Lawyer shot dead in Plateau, PDP dissociates self from killing

**A**JOS-BASED legal practitioner, Mr. Pedrus Efe Orokpo, has been shot dead by unknown persons.

This was barely a week after the assassination of a governorship aspirant of the Advanced Congress of Democrats (ACD) in the state, Jesse Aruku.

Orokpo's killing, reportedly at about 10.00p.m. on Tuesday, has further heightened the feeling of insecurity in the state.

The state Police Command has, however, given the assurance that the situation is under control and with a plea for a "little patience and understanding from the residents of the state capital and beyond."

However, the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has dissociated itself from the assassination of the ACD chieftain, Aruku.

The party has also threatened to take action against the ACD for allegations that it (PDP) sponsored the killing of Aruku.

The *Guardian* learnt yesterday evening that the lawyer,

*From Mohammed  
Abubakar (Jos), Alifa  
Daniel and Azimazi  
Momoh Jimoh (Abuja)*

Orokpo, was reportedly shot dead along Zaria Terrace in the metropolis, in a circumstance that the State Police Commissioner, Mr. Richard Chime, described as hazy. Chime, however, insisted that investigations into the incident had already commenced.

The late Orokpo, before he met his death, *The Guardian* learnt, had gone to a hotel in the metropolis to watch the semi-final soccer match between Germany and Italy. He was said to have run out of the hotel when he heard gunshots from outside.

A source disclosed that some robbers were in the area, where they carried out an "operation" on some Lebanese, who were staying in the neighbourhood. After the "operation," they were said to have started firing into the air to scare

people away and in the process, the victim was hit.

The police chief, who confirmed the development to journalists in his office, however, refused to give further details about the matter, saying that at the appropriate time, the police would come out with the details.

He, however, called on the people of the state to exercise some patience with the police, citing some logistics problems as some of the reasons responsible for the seeming security lapses being experienced in recent time in the state.

Chime, however, promised that with the pledged assistance from both the state government and assembly, the situation would be brought under control, adding that the police, like the public, was worried about the recurring upsurge of crime in the state.

The PDP has, however, declared that the first national chairman of the party,

Chief Solomon Lai, was still an active member of the Senator Ahmadu Ali-led PDP.

After a stakeholders' meeting which lasted over three hours at the National Assembly, chairman of the Plateau State Chapter of PDP, Chief Jethro Akun, also made it clear that the party was not involved in the killing.

He said: "Unless the ACD spokesperson, Alhaji Lai Mohammed, retracts the false allegation he made against PDP, we will certainly take action against him and that action will be determined by the party. certainly we are not involved in that kind of barbaric act, we condemn it. Even we are supposed to hold our rally on the 3rd of July, but because of the respect we had for the late former Local Government chairman, and because of the love we had for the people, that night that we heard of this incident, I directed that our rally be postponed."

## Power shift to the North