

# Six die in Delta, Borno political clashes

SIX people were feared dead in political violence in Delta and Borno states yesterday.

Two persons were killed at the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) state secretariat, off Okpanam Road, Asaba, in sporadic shootings at a stakeholders' meeting of the political grouping.

At about 3.10 p.m., less than 10 minutes after the meeting ended with virtually everyone in attendance still in the premises, gunshots were heard outside the fence of the secretariat.

When the gunshots persisted, party members, journalists and others scamped for safety as security details spirited their principals, including the state chairman of the PDP, Emma Ogidi, out of the premises.

It was not certain as at press time what exactly happened but a source at the secretariat claimed that some persons came to the place to cause chaos and assassinate some PDP leaders attending the meeting.

However, the hordes of anti-riot policemen were able to over-power them.

Another source claimed that the secretariat was not under attack and that there was "a security mix-up" resulting in the shooting and killing of the persons by the police. One of those allegedly killed was driver to a PDP big-

wig who brought his boss to attend the meeting.

The source alleged that the police found a locally-made pistol in the Peugeot 406 official car of the PDP chief who was initially whisked away and detained.

The bigwig, who is said to be a member of a Federal Government board was later spotted at the police headquarters where he was complaining aloud saying

"that is my driver that they have just killed".

He was also heard saying that he came directly from a board meeting to attend the stakeholders' parley based on a formal invitation.

The Secretary to the State Government, Mr. Ovie Omo-Agege, arrived the police headquarters later in the evening along with some officials and proceeded into a closed-door meeting with the officers.

*From Sunny Ogefe (Asaba) and Musa Njadvara (Maiduguri)*

The police commissioner, Mr. Udom Ekpoudom, was said to be outside the state capital. The Command's Public Relations Officer, Miss Olabisi Okuwobi, an Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP), declined comments on the incident, saying that she has not got clearance to speak on it.

In Borno state, members of the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) youths group known as ECOMOG clashed in Maiduguri, the state capital, killing four people over the sharing of an undisclosed amount of money released last week for disbursement.

The clash started when one of the members, Dan Wanzam Yunusa, protested that he was underpaid by N10,000.

Three other youths

also complained that a large part of the money released for sharing was allegedly diverted by one of their leaders.

A faction of the ECOMOG allegedly stabbed Yunusa in the stomach with a knife.

Consequently, a free-for-all ensued between the two factions, leaving three additional youths cut with knives and cutlasses.

The state Police Commissioner, Mr. Shehu

Babalola, in an interview said: "The violent clashes and killings occurred on Thursday in Costain Ward of Maiduguri at 1.35 p.m.

He said that mobile policemen have been deployed to quell the clashes.

The Police arrested 10 of the youths who, he said, would be prosecuted for public disturbances, use of dangerous weapons and alleged killing four people.

## Hoodlums attack Ladoja, Senator in Ibadan

hoodlums.

The brave security aides were even unlucky at the end of the day.

Apparently seething with anger from their inability to wreck more havoc on Balogun, the hoodlums pounced on these security operatives. They were first disarmed and then beaten to a pulp.

Balogun, whose *agbada* was completely torn by the hoodlums, accused the strongman of Ibadan politics, Alhaji Lamidi Adedibu and the state Chairman of the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW), Alhaji Lateef Akinsola (a.k.a Tokyo), of being responsible for the attack on him.

But Adedibu, in a swift reaction, denied the claim and accused Balogun of invading the House with his army of thugs.

While narrating his experience to reporters, Balogun said he merely went to the Assembly complex

*From Iyabo Lawal, and Tunji Omojoye, Ibadan*

to meet with the 18 pro-Adedibu lawmakers as part of the reconciliation process before the hoodlums numbering over 300 descended on him.

But for his security men, Balogun said he could have been killed by the hoodlums who battled spiritedly to matchet him.

His three security aides who attempted to resist the attack on their boss were later descended upon by the hoodlums as they were beaten heavily and also matcheted.

Some of Balogun's supporters who went with him to the Assembly complex also shared in the assault as they were beaten and molested by the hoodlums. Two women in the team were stripped naked.

According to Balogun, apart from his three security aides, 10 other persons

sustained injuries while personal effects like GSM handsets and three vehicles were destroyed by the angry mob.

Balogun explained that his intention was to meet with the pro-Adedibu lawmakers first before having an audience with the 12 legislators loyal to Ladoja, adding "but rather than the planned reconciliation, I saw thugs who had no business being in the parliament, drinking beer and smoking Indian hemp as if it was a beer parlour".

An aggrieved Balogun demanded for the arrest of Adedibu and subsequent prosecution. He also said he had already informed the police authorities of the incidence in the House, saying if they failed to prosecute him, he would employ a private prosecutor to carry out the act.

He, however, expressed hope in the reconciliation process, saying the devel-

opment in the House would not disrupt the peace move in any way.

Balogun then called on the National Assembly to address the problem in the Oyo House of Assembly, stressing that the sovereignty of the parliament must not be compromised.

He also disclosed that some of the affected pro-Adedibu lawmakers have called him to apologise over the incident.

But Adedibu, who took a swipe at Balogun for his 'wild' allegations, said he should tell the people why he came into the House with hoodlums instead of accusing him of any wrongdoing.

Adedibu, who spoke through his Special Assistant, Alhaji Yaya Adetunji, said he was not at the scene and did not direct anybody to attack Balogun.

He maintained that Balogun actually came into the Assembly complex with

hoodlums to foment trouble and urged the police and people to disregard the 'rumour' being spread around by him.

When contacted, the police Public Relations Officer, Olu Akinmoladun, confirmed that Balogun has reported the incident to the command, adding that it (the command) had already mobilised its men to get the hoodlums arrested.

Shortly after Ladoja was reinstated, the 18 lawmakers who championed his illegal removal had been keeping vigil at the Assembly complex with their teeming supporters apparently to prevent their colleagues from carrying out their legislative duties.

The lawmakers resume by 6.30 a.m. and leave the Assembly complex at 8.00 p.m. while lunch is served in the chambers to their supporters who have taken over the gallery.