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Edo PDP seeks probe of driver's death

Posted To The Web: Wednesday, September 23, 2009 - Alemma-Ozioruva Aliu, Benin City



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THE Edo State chapter of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) yesterday called on the Inspector General of Police, Ogbonna Onovo, to probe the death of a commercial bus driver in Benin, Osarere Odia, who allegedly died from injuries inflicted on him by agents of the state government who beat him up.

The party alleged that operatives of the inter-ministerial task force on environment inflicted severe head injuries on the late Odia late last month, leading to his death last week at the University of Benin Teaching Hospital (UBTH).

But in a statement yesterday, Senior Special Assistant to the Governor on Media, John Mayaki, absolved the state government and its agents of any complicity in the death of Odia, who was an executive council member of the state drivers association.

The Edo PDP, led by its Vice Chairman, Ben Edo-Osagie; state Publicity Secretary, Nosa Adams; Vice Chairman North, Paschal Ugbomeh; Vice Chairman, South, Dickson Imasogie and others, paid a condolence visit to the family of the late Odia at 16 Owie Street, Off Medical Store Road in the state capital.

Edo-Osagie said the party would liaise with the family to bring those responsible for the death of Odia's death to book.

His words: "This kind of thing never happened throughout the time PDP was in government in this state. The government is killing its people and destroying their property. This is a callous murder and there is no justification for it. We want the inspector general of police to intervene and find out those responsible for this death."

Elder brother to the deceased, Omoruyi Odia, insisted that his brother was killed by agents of the task force on demolition of illegal structure.

He also alleged that the deceased was abandoned after they were directed to take his brother to UBTH where he said the family spent their money to take care of him before he died.

But Mayaki said it was another driver, who he claimed was handed over to the police, that struck the late Odia during a serious argument over illegal parking on the highway, which the task force tried to clear.

He said the task force member initially accused of the murder was arrested at the State House but was later released by the police.

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