

Two Feared Dead In Ogbomoso Clash

• *Akintola's Son,
Others Attacked*

By Sola Shittu Ibadan

Not less than two persons are feared dead and several others injured in attacks on Ambassador Yomi Akintola and Major General Brimo Yusuf at a meeting in Ogbomoso, home town of Governor Adebayo Alao-

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Two Feared Dead In Violent Attacks In Ogbomoso

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Akala of Oyo state.

Ambassador Akintola is the son of the late Premier of Western Region, Chief Samuel Ladoke Akintola.

The attacks said to have lasted several hours later spread to other parts of the town as residents were gripped with panic while traders had to hurriedly close their shops and run to safety.

The attack spread to Masifa area in Ogbomoso and reportedly claimed the life of a middle-aged man said to have sustained gun shot injury and several matchet cuts.

However, all efforts to get the police to comment on the issue proved abortive.

Sunday Independent gathered from eyewitness account that the duo of Akintola and Brimo Yusuf who are supporters of Alhaji Yekini Adejo, a gubernatorial candidate from Ibadan were attacked while holding a meeting at the Akintola's residence in Ogbomoso.

It was also gathered that the attackers allegedly led by one Oriade, the Ogbomoso chairman of the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) arrived Akintola's residence at Oke Ado in a convoy of sixteen commercial buses armed with double-barrelled and pump action guns, cutlasses, charms and other dangerous weapons.

They were said to have pounced on both General Brimo and Ambassador Akintola who were caught unawares.

In the milieu that ensued, one person was feared dead on the spot while the second person said to have sustained serious injuries in the attacks was said to be in critical condition and had a slim chance of survival.

It was also gathered that both General Yusuf and Ambassador Akintola narrowly escaped death in the hands of the hoodlums who were said to be chanting war songs and calling for the head of anyone not in support of the gubernatorial bid of an Ogbomoso son.

But another report said the violence in the ancient town has nothing to do with politics and that it was caused by a hit and run driver who ran into the residence of the Akintolas.

The source said the NURTW men broke into the Akintola residence with the aim of effecting the arrest of the hit and run driver and not to attack the two politicians.

Yet another source from the Akintola camp said the report that the violence had nothing to do with politics was a blatant lie.

He insisted that the attacks were similar to others directed at perceived opponents of the state government in the past.

"Everybody in this town knows Oriade and we also know who he is working for. This will not be the first time he will be leading attacks on eminent politicians in this town and nothing has been done to him. So we know that this attack is politically motivated, let no one deceive us again," he said.

Some notable politicians in the town were also said to have left town for fear they would be target of attacks by the NURTW thugs.

Efforts to get police side of the incident proved abortive as the Commissioner of Police, Mr. Jonathan Johnson's line rang but was not picked up.

There was also no response from the Assistant Commissioner of Police in charge of operations.

State Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Mr. Fatai Sanni, said he could not react on the incident as he had no information on it.