

Four Vigilante Arrested Over Death Of Colleague

By Chukwujekwu Iloze
REPORTER, Onitsha

Barely two weeks after some members of a vigilante outfit shot a lawyer at Omagba, in the outskirts of Onitsha, a leader of another group, has been allegedly killed by his members.

Daily Independent investigation revealed that no fewer than four

members of the vigilance group have been arrested by men of the State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID), Awka, for the alleged murder of their leader, simply identified as Agwo. It was learnt that the vigilance group had on Monday, gone out on routine patrol only to report back that their leader had allegedly been short by armed robbers, whom they claimed attacked the group.

The source disclosed that the group, after the alleged shooting, took the corpse to a nearby hospital, before going to inform the wife of the deceased that her husband was attacked by robbers and needed money to pay for medical treatment.

Sensing foul play, the woman called the husband to confirm the story, only for the phone to ring in the pocket of one of the security men.

After a heated argument between the woman and her husband's former colleagues, the phone, was handed over to the woman with bloodstains.

The source state that prior to the incident, the murdered leader of the group had a land dispute with someone who might have bought over the members of the vigilante group to kill their leader.

Awolowo's Disciples Were Like Jesus' - Clergy

By Segun Adeleye
REPORTER, Abeokuta

Vicar of Our Saviour's Anglican Church, Venerable Foluso Babatunji, has lamented that the ideals and policies of the late sage, Obafemi Awolowo, were misconceived by many Nigerians.

He stated this at Efunyela Hall, venue of the posthumous 99th Birthday of Awolowo that his policies and ideas were not respected while alive, but is now celebrated."

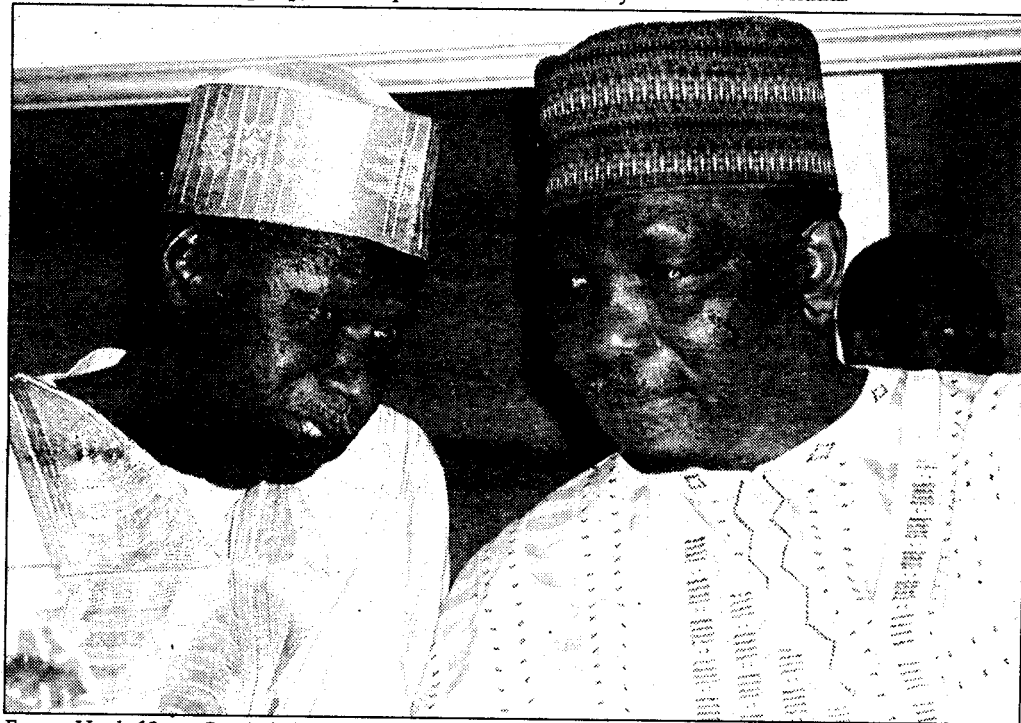
Born March 6 1909, the sage died in 1987. Ikenne, the ancestral home of the Awolowos stood still, as the Ogun State Governor, Gbenga Daniel, played host to prominent Nigerians from all walks of life.

The cleric also likened some of Awolowo's disciples to Jesus Christ's disciples, because they failed to have faith in the programmes and ideals of their leader, as was done to Jesus Christ too.

"If we did not believe in the original Awolowo by misjudging him and his ideas, then there is need for us to believe in the present day Awolowos in positions of authority. It is pertinent that we believe in ourselves," he added.

Babatunji noted that many people misunderstood the sage while alive, describing him as a "true statesman and civil servant. During his time, Papa Awolowo was a phenomena genius and a bright star which his generation did not celebrate, until after his death."

The cleric further said that the invaluable contributions of Papa Awolowo to the nation would remain entrenched in the history of the nation, saying, "Always see something good in people around you. It is good to criticise but always make it constructive."



Former Head of State, Gen. Yakubu Gowon (rtd) (right), with Major Paul Tarfa (rtd), during the public presentation of a book written by Tarfa in Abuja on Thursday.

Photo: Jide Oyekunle

I Am Confident Of Victory At Appeal Court, Says Orji

By Sade Ayodele
AVIATION CORRESPONDENT, Lagos

Former Governor of Abia State, Theodore Orji, on Friday declared he is confident he will floor his opponent, Onyema Ugochukwu, at the Appeal Court. He spoke to reporters at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport, Lagos.

Orji was removed by the Tribunal sitting in the state last month, when it declared that he (Orji) did not resign as Chief of Army Staff to the former Governor of the state, and that he belonged to a secret society.

Orji, however, told journalists in Lagos that he has proof of his resignation and is ready to present it in court.

"If I don't have confidence, I will not go there. I will have victory because I have the facts. Don't mind what the Peoples Democratic Party is saying, because if you go through the judgment, they said I did not resign."

"Having been a Permanent Secretary for many years, I had also worked with the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), so I know the implication of non-resignation. I did resign at

the appropriate time. And they were saying I took salary in April. In April, I was in detention, do you take salary when you are in detention. They never tendered any document to show that I received my salary. "They also said that I am a member of a secret cult. In the first instance, that thing they are mentioning is a shrine and I don't know anything about that shrine. They claimed I am a member and they have to prove it. The man who came to Court is a hired man, and he was not even listed and PDP did not take the leave of the court to list the man as a witness," he said.