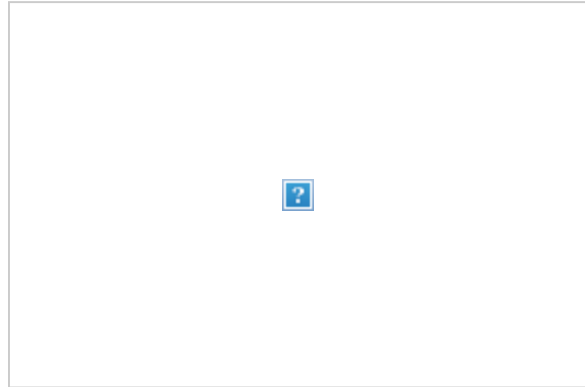


TWO FEARED KILLED IN EDO ACN, PDP SUPPORTERS' CLASH

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By Francis Onoiribholo Bureau Chief, Benin

Pandemonium broke out on Wednesday night in Fugar, headquarters of the Etsako Central Local Government of Edo State, following bloody clash between supporters of the Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN) and Peoples Democratic party (PDP), leading to the death of two persons and destruction of property worth millions of naira.

The clash is coming barley 48 hours after the state Commissioner of Police, Folusho Adebajji, met with leaders of political parties and some of their candidates for the coming council poll in the state.

The police boss had spoken to them on the need to ensure a peaceful and credible election devoid of violence.

The residence of Paul Osugbo, chairman of ACN in Etsako Central Local Government Area and vehicles parked in the premises were set ablaze while the party's chairmanship candidate, Emmanuel Momoh, whose convoy was attacked by political thugs escaped death by whiskers.

According to residents of Fugar, trouble started when a PDP supporter, who recently dumped the ACN, hit his former colleague in the ACN with a bus, and in the process seriously injuring four others.

It was gathered that the ACN supporters later mobilised and launched a reprisal attack on the PDP supporter, trailing him to his house.

On meeting his absence in his father's house, the ACN supporters were said to have attacked his father, beating him and killing him in the process.

Residents reported that what followed was an orgy of violence, attacks and counter-attacks, as PDP members regrouped and burnt down the house of the ACN chairman in the local government late on Wednesday night.

Further attacks were reported to have been carried out up to the early hours of Thursday.

At least five houses were either completely razed or torched, while gunshots rented the air.

State Chairman of the PDP, Dan Orbih, in his reaction on Thursday called on the police to apprehend and prosecute those behind the crisis.

He expressed sadness over what he described as the desperation on the part of the ACN to win election into all the councils in the state.

"This is not the first time they have boasted that they are going to win 18 over 18 even when elections is yet to take place, this is just a sign of things to come.

What happened to the one-man-one-vote they have always preached about?" Orbih asked.

The ACN chairmanship candidate for the April 20 council election, Emmanuel Momoh, when contacted on Thursday accused the PDP in the area of fomenting trouble in "a desperate bid to disrupt the council elections."

"I speak to you now our party chairman's house and vehicles were set ablaze while my convoy was attacked. When I was entering Fugar my convoy was attacked and vehicles badly damaged. However, security agents had been drafted to restore normalcy," he said.

When contacted, Edo State Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Moses Eguavoen, confirmed the incident, adding that many arrests have been made.

Another report on Thursday said some gunmen allegedly in police uniform killed a foreigner in Daleko in the Mushin area of Lagos.

Eyewitnesses said the gunmen were in a bus when they opened fire and shot sporadically at the deceased who was driving in a Highlander jeep.

The attackers hit him in the chest and then zoomed off, the report said.

The victim was said to have died on the way to the hospital.

Lagos State Police Public Relations Officer (OORO), Ngozi Braid, said of the incident in a statement: "Today 11th April, 2013 at about 0700 hours, the Area Commander, Area 'D' Mushin received a distress call that there was a shooting incident around Daleko Bridge, Mushin.

"Some policemen were immediately dispatched to the area but on arrival, the gunmen had disappeared.

"On enquiry, eyewitnesses clustering around told men of the Area 'D' that the gunmen were in police uniform and had operated in a commercial bus.

"The victim, one Mr. Santos Korie driving in a Toyota Highlander died on his way to the hospital."

Meanwhile, some arrests have been made and the suspects are currently being detained at the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) for interrogation.

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