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One killed in Ekiti as warring RTEAN members renew hostility

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The peace deal between warring factions of the members of Road Transport Employee Association of Nigeria (RTEAN) may have hit the rocks with the killing of a factional leader, Julius Ojo.

Ojo, who until his death was the chairman of RTEAN Ikere-Akure unit, was reportedly killed by a three-man gang allegedly loyal to the embattled former State Chairman, Rotimi Olanbiwoninu (alias mentilo).

Six suspects have been apprehended by the Police in connection with the incident.

Daily Independent learnt that Ojo's assailants lured him to the garage with a promise to meet his members.

The troubled drivers' union had been embroiled in internal crisis when some members rose against the tenure of Olanbiwoninu whose tenure, they claimed had lapsed.

The deceased belonged to the opposing camp. The Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) Victor Olu-Babayemi condemned the killing, describing it as "most uncalled for", adding "an accord has been reached between the two parties and we all believed the problem had been solved".

Babayemi said that according to the findings, the assailants had called the victim on phone, and invited him to the motor park early on Saturday, adding that "unfortunately, when he came, they shot him at close range."

Babayemi said: "The leadership of the association is aware that there is a leadership change but the deposed leadership has not been cooperating with the new one and there has been infighting among them.

"Precisely on February 8, which was a Saturday, the deceased was called on phone by some aggrieved group known as Three Mopol to the garage to come and meet with his people. But, when the victim came, he was shot at close range, according to the information we gathered".

Noting that the corpse of the deceased had been deposited at the mortuary of the Ekiti State University Teaching Hospital (EKSUTH), the PPRO clarified that investigation was on to ascertain the level of participation of the six people in custody.

Chairman of the Caretaker Committee, Mr. Adenayo Aderiye (aka Ojuigo) said "We have had several meetings and we have continued to appeal to them to allow peace to reign. But our efforts are not being rewarded. This killing is bad. We did not expect it given all we have done.

"We are begging the police and the State Governor to rescue our members. Security reports that we have are that more of our members will be killed. We are not safe again", he said.

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