

Two killed as thugs storm government secretariat

AN army of thugs suspected to be from a prominent Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) leader in Ibadan, yesterday unleashed terror on civil servants and supporters of the reinstated governor of Oyo State, Senator Rashidi Ladoja, at the state Secretariat, Ibadan.

In the attack, allegedly led by the deputy governor to Otunba Bayo Alao-Akala's deputy, Gbolarunmi left dead a middle aged man whose identity could not be im-

From Oseheye Okwuofu, Ibadan

mediately ascertained as at the time of filing in this report. He had a deep marchet cut on his forehead. Several civil servants were injured.

The slain man's body was on Elizabeth Road, which leads to the state secretariat, Agodi, Ibadan.

The deceased was found lying unconscious in a pool of his own blood. Many people fleeing the attack watched helplessly as the man breathed

his last.

Firemen at the secretariat were not spared by the rampaging thugs: one of them was killed.

There were deafening sounds of gunshots. Teargas flumes choked the air. It was fired by anti-riot policemen. The thugs carried sophisticated guns and other weapons, such as knives, cutlasses, charms and spent bottles of beer that were freely hauled at their targets, especially the civil servants.

Many of the civil servants and supporters of Ladoja had fled into the surrounding bush for safety. Motorists avoided all the major roads leading to the state Secretariat in the heat of the attack, but the unlucky ones were mugged by the thugs, who collected handsets, money and other valuables from their victims.

Scores of supporters of Ladoja, including the civil servants, had lined the road from the Ministry of Com-

merce building close to the entrance gate as early as 7.50am to give the reinstated governor a rousing welcome.

Instead of Ladoja, it was a team of thugs that pounced on them with dangerous weapons.

Although security around the state Secretariat Complex was tight, the presence of an armoured tank stationed at the main gate and dozens of anti-riot policemen were not enough to deter the blood - thirsty thugs.

Ladoja bounces back amidst circumstances