

Another top PDP stalwart shot dead in Delta

ANOTHER member of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Delta State, Mr. Rex Ezonfade, has been shot dead in Warri by unknown gunmen.

Ezonfade was murdered barely three weeks after the assassination of Mr. Arido Muoboghare, a PDP stalwart and aide of former Governor James Ibori, in Effurun near Warri.

Ezonfade was Director-General of the Albert

From Shola O'Neil, Warri

Okumagba Governorship Campaign Organisation.

He was shot by a six-man gang dressed in military fatigue at the entrance of his apartment at the Crystal Palace Estate.

The Nation learnt that Ezonfade, who was the proprietor of Broadwell Hotel, Effurun, was returning home from work when he was accosted by the gang.

He was reportedly shot

severally including on his abdomen, by the armed men, who later fled the scene in his grey Toyota Corolla car.

The incident, which occurred at the exclusive estate, located on the NNPC Housing Complex Road, Edjeba, has thrown residents of the areas into panic, because of the seeming similarity between his killing and that of Muoboghare.

Residents of the estate,

who were attracted by the gunshots, rushed the victim to the nearby Shell Clinic.

An eyewitness told *The Nation* that the medical personnel at the clinic fought frantically to save Ezonfade but lost the battle.

"The man had lost so much blood by the time he was brought in here, so we had to quickly try and get blood for him. Luckily, there was one or two per-

sons among those who came with him that was in the same blood group (O+)", a source said.

The Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Banawi Ishaku, an Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP), was unable to comment when called his mobile phone; he appealed for time to get in touch with the officers covering the area where the incident occurred.

But Dr. Mike Oberabor, a colleague of Ezonfade in the Okumagba Campaign Organisation, confirmed the report in a telephone interview with *The Nation* yesterday.

Oberabor, who is the Zonal Coordinator for international human rights group, Amnesty International (AI), lamented the rampant incidence of murder across the Niger Delta in particular and the country in general.