

Gunmen strike in Oyo, kill federal legislator

THE camp of the Ibadan political chieftain Alhaji Lamidi Adedibu got depleted on Friday night with the gruesome murder of a member of House of Representatives Hon. Olusegun Oladimeji (a.k.a. Segelu). He was until his death representing the Akinyele/Lagelu Federal Constituency of Oyo state.

Oladimeji was at 9.15 p.m. shot by two men who accosted him at a drinking at a joint close to his party office at Ejioku in Lagelu Local Government area via Iwo Road. They also shot Ejioku's Mistress, Sadia Oyebamji (a member of the Caretaker Committee, Lagelu), and two of his aides who have been hospitalised while many others were wounded before the attackers zoomed off through Ibadan Road.

The State Governor Otunba Adebayo Alao Akala who was at the Segelu Hotel New Life Road, Ibadan with his political godfather Alhaji Adedibu, expressed shock at the development which he said was politically-motivated. To unravel the dastardly act, Akala has pledged a N10million ransom for any person who could provide information leading to the of the assassins.

The remains of Sewgelu 61 have been deposited at the University College Hospital (UCH), Ibadan, The Nation gathered yesterday.

Oladimeji was formerly a councillor, later the National Republican Convention (NRC) party chairman, and then the state Chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) before being elected into the House of the National Assembly.

Just as Alhaji Adedibu said that the killing was political because according to him, "they were not armed robbers", Governor Akala also maintained that Ooladimeji's murder was an intra-party leadership tussle caused by those who envied his taking over the leadership of the party in Lagelu.

Governor Akala who was billed to for Akure, Ondo state for a function yesterday morning was flanked at the deceased's Hotel by many PDP supporters including Alhaji Lamidi Adedibu and the Senate Leader Senator Teslim Kolawole

From Sola Adeyemo, Ibadan

Folarin, Akala said, "the murder is political, it is tragic, it is barbaric, shocking and devastating. It is part of the political tussle going on in the Lagelu area being that he was a leader. Because they could not defeat him at the election, they have decided to kill him. It is power tussle.

They know that nobody can take Lagelu from him. That is why he is at the House of Representatives. He died among his people. What has he done? I have just spoken to the Commissioner of Police and he said they have made some arrests. We must unravel the killers and so we have told our people to help the Police to see what they can do. I suspect our political opponents in Lagelu. This is because they cannot get themselves sorted out there. Politics should not be seen as a matter of life and death if truly people are ready to serve. The government is ready to assist the Police in unravelling the murder".

Adedibu also said, "the killing is political: "It is leadership tussle. God will help in unravelling the killers. The man is my political associate. He telephoned me yesterday when he was to leave Abuja. He came to attend the Tribunal yesterday. There is no doubt about it that the killing is from his political opponents. He cares much about the Law. He was never absent from the tribunal. He had promised that he would see me this morning".

Recalling how the incident happened, his first son, Hon. Lekan Oladimeji who is the Supervisory Councillor for Education at the local council, said, "Earlier yesterday, we went to a site. As we came back, we went to another function (funeral party of my father's friend). As we left the place, he went to a 'joint' (Beer parlour) near the party office at Ejioku. Then later I learnt two assailants went to him. And they asked who was Segelu. Sensing they were looking for money, my father identified himself and excused himself from the joint to a nearby place to discuss with them. What they later heard was gunshot", deceased son explained.

Asked what he suspected



• The widows of the slain legislator, Oladimeji

could be responsible for the attack on his father, Lekan said, "I suspect intra-party problem. Baba Adedibu likes our father and that is why they came after him".

In his own version of the story, the SLA, Mr Peter Dairo who was shot on the left wrist, said, "the two boys just came and they were in the dark. They said they wanted to see Baba Agba. The PA was arguing with them asking them who is Baba Agba. As soon as they identified him, they rained bullets on him. I crawled out of the place. The boys came in a Honda car".

"For now, my heart goes to his family; the wives who are now widows and the children who now have no father. I feel very sorry for them".

Asked whether he was optimistic that the killers would be found eventually, Folarin said, "I am not at all optimistic. This is because if you look at the series of high profile killings that have taken place in this country, how many of them have been resolved? I have to be honest with you. Even if they get the killers, of what use will it be? Of what benefit is it?"

The deceased Legislator had three wives in his New Life Road home. They are Mrs Janet Oladimeji who he

married in 1969, Mrs Bimpe Oladimeji 1971 and Mrs Adenike in 1981. Sitting beside one another in a pensive mood in the house, the eldest said, "after yesterday's prayer, he left home. He would always go to his Hotel. He came back from Abuja on Thursday. He slept here".

Asked whether there was any form of premonition about the murder of their husband, Mrs Janet who held a copy of the Holy Bible firmly said, "We would not know whether there was any threat to his life. He never had premonition of the misfortune. Every morning I would be the one to ring the bell for money prayer and after the prayer, he would give us some words of advice. Ours is always prayers for him anytime he goes out and comes in".

On whether they knew he was with any of his wives at the time he was attacked, the wives said, "we do not see outside and so we do not know whether he has any wife outside this home".

Mrs Janet recalled that their husband would always wake up in the morning, "go and empty his potty of urine because he had said that nobody should go out in the night".

On how the informa-

tion about the attack got to them, Mrs Janet said, "I had slept when they called me. It was our children from overseas that called us. They had earlier been informed by some people".

Responding to the arrest as claimed by Governor Akala, Miss Olabisi Okuwobi (Police Public Relations Officer) said "we have arrested one person in connection with the murder while some people who were with him then have been kept in protective custody. We have commenced investigation".

Mr Taiwo Lakanu (Assistant Commissioner of Police, ACP, Iyaganku) who also visited the Segelu however told journalists that no arrests had been made. He said investigation was already going on to unravel the killing.

Yar'Adua promises to leave legacy for the youth

PRESIDENT Umaru Yar'Adua yesterday in Abuja promised to leave a legacy which the youth would build on in the future.

Speaking at a reception in honour of the Golden Eagles who won the FIFA U-17 World Cup in South Korea, Yar'Adua said the achievement of the team

Present at the Segelu Hotel to pay the family condolence were the following: Deputy Governor Hon. Taofeek Arapa, Speaker of the House of Assembly Hon. Moroof Atilola, many Chairmen of the Local Government Councils including Hon. Gbenga Adewusi of the Ibadan North East, Hon. Akeem Ige of Mapo North East, Hon. Yemi Aderibigbe of the Akinyele local government, Hon. Tunde Olayiwola, party supporters and many other sympathisers.

In the condolence register placed before Segelu's imposing glazed photograph, Governor Akala wrote thus, "Segelu, we shall miss you. May your gentle soul rest in peace. We shall fish out your killers by the grace of God."

called on other Nigerians to emulate the team.

He said that what the players had seen in terms of reception since their return on Tuesday was just a fraction of the feeling of Nigerians towards them.

Speaking earlier, the Minister/Chairman of National Sports Commission, Alhaji Hassan Gimba, said