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## Dipo Dina:The man, his life, his time

 By [Olukorede Yishau](#) | Published 12/02/2010 | [Politics](#) | Rating: ★★★★★

### •Who killed Dina?

The killers of Otunba Dipo Dina, the late Action Congress (AC) governorship candidate in the 2007 general elections, are still walking the streets free as his remains are interred today. They are free enjoying the benefits of killing the man known as D.D.Direct.

Despite the boast by the police to fish out the murderer of the Ijebu-Ode-born chartered accountant and businessman, not much has been achieved.

Now, Dina, like many other political figures, is to be buried without any clue as to who killed him.

Weeks before Dina was sent to the great beyond, an elderly lawyer Jonathan Ogundere was killed on Christmas Eve. He was abducted from his country home in Oyan, Odo-Otin Local Government Area of Osun State and was later set ablaze by his assailants at Igbotele village.

The list of unresolved killings is endless, notable among them was the killing of former Minister of Justice and Attorney General of the federation, Chief Bola Ige at his Ibadan home on December 23, 2001. The killings of Chief Marshall Harry, A.K. Dikibo also went unresolved despite the public outcry that greeted them, coupled with assurances from the police authorities.

Mr. Ajibola Olanipekun, a lawyer and Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN) was murdered on June 21, 2003 in Ibadan. Lagos politician, Funsho Williams, Ekiti politician, Ayo Daramola; Hassan Olajoku and many more have been killed. Like Dina, the killers of these men are still unknown to the police.

Williams, then a governorship aspirant on the platform of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) was killed at his 184, Corporation Drive, Dolphin Estate, Ikoyi, Lagos home.

The police arrested his Personal Assistant, who also coordinated the media and publicity of his campaign organisation, Mr. Frank Uzuegbunam, his driver simply identified as Omo; and a female cook.

His killers were believed to have gained entrance into the house by scaling the fence of an unoccupied building beside his house.

The then Lagos State Governor, Asiwaju Bola Tinubu, offered a N10million reward for anybody who volunteered information that could lead to the arrest of the murderers of the late Williams.

The then Force Public Relations Officer, the late Haz Iwendi, said that the policemen on duty at the late politician's residence were quizzed over the murder. But many years later, the investigations have yielded no fruits. So also are the result of efforts at getting those behind the January 14, 2006 slaying of Sa'adatu, wife of former Kano State Governor Abubakar Rimi.

The 48-year-old Sa'adatu was murdered at about 3am by yet-to-be identified assassins in the upper chambers of her husband's one-storey country home situated at Durbuin Katsina Road, GRA, Kano.

Rimi said of the incident "I leave everything to God, fully convinced that very soon, Allah will fish out the killers."

Thirteen suspects were held in connection with the incident, including the deceased's step son. A five-million reward was promised anyone who provided useful information that could lead to the arrest of perpetrators of the act.

While the country was awaiting recovery from the murder of Sa'adatu, a major financier of Oranmiyan Movement, the political group of Osun State AC governorship candidate, Rauf Aregbesola, Alhaji Hassan-Olajoku, was felled in the presence of his daughter and wife at Gbongan junction in the early hours of Sunday, May 15, 2005 when returning to Lagos. This was after attending a political event the day before.

Also felled that year was Chief Dele Arojo, former gubernatorial aspirant on the platform of the PDP in Ogun State. Arojo was murdered by unknown gunmen near his residence at Egbeda, a Lagos suburb in late November 2005.

Arojo's death was attributed to the rising incidence of political violence in the country. His murder was linked to the campaign by the Yewa people to have the PDP gubernatorial ticket zoned to the area.

A curious angle to assassinations believed to have political tone was the killing last year of the Lafenwa Divisional Police Officer (DPO), Chief Superintendent Adesola Okesola. He was shot dead by unknown gunmen last March as the Ogun State crisis turned bloody.

Okesola was killed in front of his station around 8a.m. He had come out to ascertain why people were running helter-skelter when he was killed. The gunmen, who were in a car, reportedly opened fire on sighting him. He slumped and died in the presence of his subordinates. The then Commissioner of Police Dipo Ayeni, who visited the scene, regretted the DPO's death and promised that his men would apprehend the killers.

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But as the police have been unable to resolve the murder of outsiders so have they been unable to get to the root of who killed their own Okesola.

The latest in murder cases involving politicians in the country is Dina, who as he is being buried today, there is no clue that his death would not go the same way. But whether the killers are ever known or not, some things are not controvertible. One is that he led a principled life- a fact reflected in his shunning of overtures to defect to the rival PDP. Since his quest for political power began in 2003, when he contested for the House of Representatives on the platform of the Alliance for Democracy (AD), consistency was one virtue he took to heart.

Even when in 2007, the powers-that-be in Ogun State reportedly frustrated the move to confer a chieftaincy title on him by the Olu of Ilaro, Dina kept his cool. Not even the fact that he had spent a lot of money on preparations made him call out his supporters. And when the same forces cancelled the empowerment programme he planned for Ipokia, a riverine community in the state, peace was the song in his mouth.

In the face of provocations, such as when thugs suspected to be sympathetic to the PDP attacked his convoy in Yewa division and assaulted him, he did not allow the heavens to fall. Despite intimidations and harassment, Dina did not let the man die in him.

Through his Dipo Dina Movement, he was documenting what he believed were evidence of graft in the state. He had set up the Dipo Dina Movement to launch his governorship bid. The movement began to run adverts in a national newspaper. The adverts gave details of "mismanagement and looting" of public funds allegedly by the state government.

The Movement was quoting vouchers and other government documents expected to be "Top Secret". The state government did not take kindly to the development and he was reported to the police. As a result he was arrested for allegedly stealing government documents. Thereafter, Dina and four of his associates were locked up at Zone II Headquarters in Lagos before he was moved to the Police Headquarters, Elewera where he spent the 2005 Christmas and Boxing Day holidays.

After his release, he said: "I have never spent Christmas away from my family until now. If that is what I will get from trying to make my society better, so be it. But I remain unbowed and I will continue to fight for the betterment of my society and the well-being of the people."

The state government got an injunction restraining the Dipo Dina Movement from further publishing documents on the finances of the state. He was also tried in court, but was later discharged and acquitted.

That did not deter him from being a vocal critic of Governor Daniel and his leadership style. The late AC governorship candidate was involved in war of words with Daniel during and after the 2007 elections and was also one of the governorship candidates who dragged Daniel to the election petition tribunal, alleging fraud in the election. Even when his case was thrown out for being allegedly lacking in merit, Dina did not stop being critical of Daniel's administration.

Dina, who was beaten to the third place in the 2007 election, said in a recent interview that if there were credible electoral reforms, he would contest the gubernatorial election in 2011. Now, he has left rather than live to fulfil his dreams and aspirations.

And the posers ring on: Was Dina killed by armed robbers? Or was he killed by hired assassins? Over to the police.

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Over to the police, I agree.

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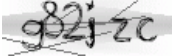
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