

Assassins kill Niger Delta chieftain in Kaduna

FOR the second time in one week, gunmen suspected to be assassins struck in Kaduna in the early hours of yesterday, killing a Kaduna-based legal practitioner and a chieftain of the Niger Delta Peoples Forum, Barrister Jimmy Omogbereme.

The late Omogbereme, who was a strong member of the campaign team of the current National President of the Nigeria Bar Association, Joseph Daudu, was killed at his No1 Jimmy Close, Angwar-Maisamari in the Malali area of Kaduna metropolis at about 1:45 am.

Recounting the ordeal of the late legal practitioner in the hands of his assailants, his wife, Mrs. Alice Jimmy Omogbereme said that the gun men came to the house late in the night, adding that they were woken up by the barking of the dogs.

According to her, "around 2:00am last night, I was woken up by the unusual barking of the dogs in the compound and I decided to call the security guard only to hear him shouting that armed robbers had visited us. From that moment, everything went silent only for me to start hearing them forcing the burglary proof of the windows open.

"And after about fifteen minutes, they moved into the sitting room and asked us to remain in the bedroom. I told my husband who asked us to keep cool and allow him handle the matter.

"I took all the children and locked them up in the bathroom and from the bathroom, I heard a loud gunshot and began to panic. On their way out, one of them decided to come back and asked us to come out of the bathroom. I told them to assure us that they are not going to harm us which he accepted.

"When I came out, I saw my husband in the pool of his blood. I became frightened and pointed to one of the drawers in the room and asked the man who ordered us to come out to check there if he can find any gold there. Surprisingly, he left without checking any of the drawers to join his colleagues.

"After sometime, I heard the voice of the security guard and asked him if they've gone and he said yes but quickly told me that they tied him to the bed.

"At about 2:30am, Operation Yaki people arrived in their van and moved into the house, untied the security guard and took my husband away, saying he was still unconscious and that they want to take him to the hospital for medical attention. But I overheard them telling our neighbor that it's like he was dead but they have to confirm from a medical doctor."

The security guard attached to the residence, Mr Peter Sumnoe, also recounted his ordeal saying that the killers who were five in number, forced their way into the expansive compound through the back fence, "after cutting the pro-

From Tony Akowe, Kaduna

tectors on the fence."

According to him, "Around 1:45 am, I heard an unusual noise and movement at the back of the compound. Because of the noise and the barking of our dogs, I decided to take a walk to the back of the premises," he said.

"Behold, three of the killers who were already in the compound, pointed a gun at me and threatened to shoot if I don't keep quiet because immediately I saw them, I started shouting to the main house that robbers have invaded the house.

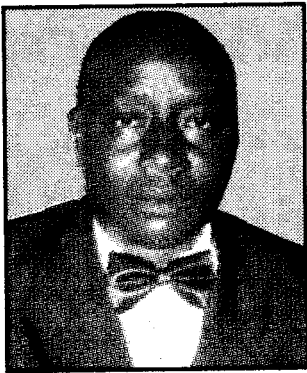
"They asked me for the key to the main gate but I told

them it was not with me. They were furious and hit me hard with the butt of their gun. I fell down and pretended to be unconscious. They took me to the security room and tied me to the bed and I was blindfolded."

The state Commissioner of Police, Tambari Yabo Mohammed who confirmed the incident, said that it was rather too early for the police to make any statement regarding the killing.

The Police boss, who arrived the scene of the incident as at exactly 10:47 am, described the development as a very sad one, but said that the police was already investigating the matter.

Reacting to the develop-



Late Barrister Jimmy Omogbereme

ment, the District Head of Malali/Badarawa, Alhaji Shehu Jae said he was directed by the Emir of Zauzzau, Alhaji Shehu Idris to visit the scene of the inci-

dent and report back to him

Commenting on the incidence, Chairman of the Kaduna branch of the Nigerian Bar Association, Muiyiwa Olowokure asked security agents to fish out the killers, adding that the Police forensic department should be improved upon to make investigation into such incident easier.

He, however, vowed that the Bar will monitor the case to its logical conclusion. President of the Niger Delta Peoples Forum in Kaduna, Barrister Mike Edegware, described the late Jimmy as a committed leader and member of the association who had worked for the unity of the indigenes in the state.



•L-R: Alhaji Bashir Tofa, former Governor of Edo State, Chief John Odigie-Oyegun and former Governor of Yobe State, Senator Bukka Ibrahim at the declaration of Tofa's presidential ambition for 2011 election on ANPP platform at a dinner in Abuja on Friday

Oyo VGN warns politicians against arms build-up

OYO State Vigilante Group of Nigeria (VGN) has warned politicians against the consequences of stockpiling arms and ammunition, in order to win elections come 2011.

Addressing its officers and men from the 33 local governments of the state at its bi-monthly meeting held in Oyo town, the state Commander, Mr Sunday Olajide said available intelligence reports revealed that some top politicians in

From Bode Durojaye, Oyo

the have been holding clandestine meetings on the use of violent means to win the forthcoming polls.

"Some local government chairmen in collaboration with top politicians have been meeting on how to turn local government vigilante into militant groups with the procurement of needed arms and ammunition, in order to force themselves into power at all cost. Each member of the local government vigilante is

to receive substantial allowance, so as to ensure that the nefarious plans come into fruition. VGN men are not under the state and local governments, but legally established by the Federal Government with the sole aim of complementing national security. We are presently sacrificing, and yet to be on payroll of the government," he lamented.

Mr Olajide further disclosed that in order to actualize their deadly mission, some politicians

sponsored the state chapter of local government vigilante to Abuja for registration, but could not succeed, as they were directed to register with the VGN in the state.

Igogo festival kicks off today in Owo

By Taiwo Ablodun

THE annual Igogo festival in Owo, Ondo State starts today, this was announced by High Chief Michael Adelanke Ajana. According to the town's mouthpiece, the festival starts with *First Upeli* procession by the chiefs today while on the 23rd, Thursday the second *Upeli* procession by the Iloro chiefs would take place at 4pm.

The third *Upeli* procession also by the Iloro chiefs and *Ugbama Ayoyo* at 4pm on the 27th.

On the 30th [Thursday] and October 1st, Friday will take place there will be preparation for *Ugbagbo*, *Utegi* and *Uyana*. The *Ugabte* Day would be observed on Monday the 4th of October.

The Olowo of Owo On the 6th of October, Oba David Victor Folagbade Olateru - Olagbegi III and the Iloro Chiefs would dance round the town at 10am. This will be followed by recitation and prayer by URU at 9p.

2010: Only lengthy jail terms can stop politicians against rigging, says Ohakim

ONLY stiff sanctions, including long jail terms and twenty-year ban can 'persuade' Nigerian politicians to stop rigging elections. Also the idealistic posturing by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) is not enough to guarantee free, fair and credible elections in 2011, Imo state governor, Chief Ikedi Ohakim has said.

While delivering a lecture on "Critical Issues In 2011 Elections" at the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) in Abuja during the weekend, Ohakim expressed concerns that multifarious dimensions of corruption is

From Jide Babalola, Assistant Editor, Abuja.

killing Nigeria while drug barons, fraudsters and other criminals work tirelessly towards dominating the nation's political landscape through direct means or by proxy.

Ohakim, who lamented that he had been a victim of low-level terrorism and propaganda war sponsored by political contractors, also challenged the nation's security agencies, including members of ISS' Executive Intelligence Management (Course 3) at the lecture to find means of ensuring strict screening in order to preventing

dubious persons from gaining a foothold in the nation's political space.

He said, "I am of the view that unless and until politicians forswear rigging, we cannot have credible elections; the only way to persuade politicians to forswear rigging is to send the riggers to jail and thereafter, ban them from competing in any election for a good number of years, maybe twenty years! I am reminded of a forecast in the 80's that Nigeria was doomed if it allowed drug barons, conmen and criminals to overrun the political space in this country.