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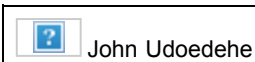
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# Nine dead in ACN-PDP clash

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[Olukorede Yishau, Chris Orji, Enugu and Yusuf Ideg, Jos](#)

23/03/2011 01:40:00



John Udoedehe

Along convoy of vehicles, youths singing and drumming as crowds of residents waved excitedly.

Then shots rang out. The carnival ended abruptly. Everyone ran for dear lives. By the time the dust settled, **nine** Action Congress of Nigeria (CAN) supporters of Akwa Ibom governorship candidate John Udoedehe lay **dead**. Many were injured.

It all happened in Ikot Ekpene, home of the Annang, in Akwa Ibom State.

Udoedehe's main opponent Governor Godswill Akpabio, is from Ikot Ekpene zone.

Guns, stones and other weapons were used on the **ACN** candidates and their supporters by people suspected to be thugs of the ruling Peoples Democratic Party (**PDP**).

Udoedehe and his supporters were heading for a primary school in Ikot Opongadong for a rally.

Some of the victims died on the spot, others died as they were being taken to Uyo, the state capital his words for treatment.

The incident happened around 2.45 pm. The campaign train left Uyo, Udoedehe's constituency, around 2 pm.

One filling station and a house on Uyo-Ikot Road were burnt. Twenty vehicles were either damaged or burnt.

It was learnt that the **ACN** had been warned to stay away from Ikot Ekpene. The party's request for three venues was turned down before it got a primary school in Ikot Opongadong.

Speaking with The Nation last night, Udoedehe described the incident as "unfortunate". He said it was like a war.

He said: "This is the first rally we would be holding in Anang land. We had a long convoy. They were shouting on us, stoning us and shooting sporadically. They ambushed us on both ends of the convoy. They thought they had killed me and went to Uyo to break the news of my death. They stoned my vehicle and that of my deputy. We were really helpless. Even the Army and SSS could not do anything. They could not protect us. Police said they had no men."

Udoedehe's running mate, Ime Umanah, who is Annang like Akpabio, said he was sad that his people could allow themselves to be brainwashed.

He said: "What happened today has been a disgrace to me. Akpabio is trying to bring ethnic war to Akwa Ibom. He does not want anyone to campaign in Annang. They prevented us from getting to the venue of the rally. It is a pity that God gave him power and he is using it badly. My principal's Toyota car is riddled with bullets. Even when we managed

to get to the venue, they chased us out.”

The **ACN** senatorial candidate for Ikot Ekpene, Mr Joe Ukpung, said he was in the same vehicle with Umanah all through the attack on the convoy. He said the attackers’ goal was to prevent the party from campaigning in the area and winning over the people.

**PDP** sources said **ACN** members descended on government and private properties in Uyo after escaping from Ikot Ekpene.

Speaking through his Commissioner for Information Aniekan Umanah, Akpabio said he had no hand in the fracas. He said he was busy with his campaigns in two local government areas when the Ikot Ekpene incident happened. He said his rallies were peaceful.

He said: “We don’t know those involved. We had our own rallies in two local government areas, Abak and Mkpatenin. There was no **clash** with anybody. We were surprised when we returned to Uyo to see houses and vehicles being burnt. Clearly, some people have taken laws into their hands. It is unfortunate if people decide to shed blood for politics and burn down public buildings. Some people are taking government’s tolerance for weakness.”

A **PDP** source blamed the incident on the **ACN** which tried to force its way through the town despite the fact that it had been warned to take its campaigns elsewhere. “They had been warned that no other party, except **PDP**, should come for campaign in Annang land. So, why did they come?”

Ukpung said **ACN** supporters never showed any violent attitude while on the campaign.

## Comments (28 posted):

**Gift** on 23/03/2011 02:05:28



Home grown democracy in action. Goodluck Nigeria.



2

**Joseph** on 23/03/2011 02:15:09



IS THIS PART OF THINGS TO COME, COME APRIL?

BOTH PARTIES SHOULD BE DISQUALIFY IN THE STATE SO THAT OTHERS IN OTHER STATES WILL LEARN. **NINE** HUMAN LIFE'S LOST A RUN UP TO AN ELECTION AND YET NO ONE WILL BE PUNISH.

I AM ALREADY SHEDDING TEARS FOR APRIL.

JEGA, PLEASE DO SOMETHING



3

**Samson** on 23/03/2011 02:30:13



A **PDP** source blamed the incident on the **ACN** which tried to force its way through the town despite the fact that it had been warned to take its campaigns elsewhere. “They had been

warned that no other party, except **PDP**, should come for campaign in Annang land. So, why did they come - This statement is coming from a useless **PDP** member. They all behave the same way, Akala did same in Oyo. May God Bless Nigeria



17

**Ayo** on 23/03/2011 03:30:49



The nation should have mentioned the name of the **PDP** source that said that no party except **PDP** should campaign in Annang land, this shows how stupid and lack of education all in **PDP** are.

Nigerian are tired of **PDP** and they dont have to force themself on us. Remember what is going on in North Africa. This election will determine whether Nigeria will still be one. Jonathan be warned, expecially about your do or die to have south west by force.



2

**Michael Omole** on 23/03/2011 03:53:28



The wind of change is blowing through the Middle East and North Africa. Where next? It could be anywhere and no mortal gods will be spared. Very soon the African tetra headed parties, their lords and their cohorts will not only disappear; those who have been causing mayhem will be swept away in the most forceful and terrifying Tsunami of the century.



2

**femi lbrahim** on 23/03/2011 05:57:46



Tjis is ridiculous, asking why did **ACN** come to campaign, are they not nigerian, patying taxes like others. This is a big shame. what type of government are they running in Nigeria. shame on **PDP**!



3

**mfona, Washington** on 23/03/2011 06:30:50



The handwritings are on the wall for the world to see what one man called Godswill Akpabio can do in a once peaceful state. But such is a precursor to his political career heading to the blazes. He campaigned in Mkpato Enin and Abak without citizens of Mkpato Enin harassing and stoning his entourage. Yet his men ambushed and killed ACN's entourage. Who is this governor kidding? Mr. Governor, Nigeria does not belong to you; Akwaibom is a place you will never

understand. Where were you during the War? Those people you are playing with are no pushovers. Let whoever wants to campaign do so, because you should never plan to stay in power for life. Are you following the world's political situations: Egypt, Algeria, Bahrain, Libya, etc? If the people of Akwaibom don't want you, you must prepare to go. From the looks of things, the people home and abroad are duty bound to eject you from the state. You have brought shame to the State, Nigeria, and Annang people as a whole. You import some unscrupulous neighbors to steal and loot the state for you. I thought you were politically thoughtful in the start of your administration. But after seeing your administration as a total chaos, I have to tell you, it would be in your best interest to leave. Your life, future, family is more invaluable than power. You have tainted your career; it is almost irretrievably gone. But good luck to you.



4

**KINGJAMES L,DAPAR** on 23/03/2011 06:42:37



NIGERIANS WE DONT HAVE TO GO THIS FAR.KILLING IS NOT GOOD



0

**eky john** on 23/03/2011 07:56:32



what is going on with these politician in Akwa ibom,why all these killing, it has never happen like this before,now it is Annang vs Ibibio.My God help us



0

**Hanson** on 23/03/2011 08:00:51



sia ndi'kappa mba ke idung. Mkpo ayem, iya ikid utid.

So there is no more freedom of movement in my state?

His will surely be done, that one is sure.



1

**Gideon Henry** on 23/03/2011 08:14:49



AKPABIO AND THE ANNANG PEOPLE WILL NOT DESTROY MY STATE... AKPABIO BE-

## WARE OF EASTERN OBOLO LGA...!



0

**Bassey** on 23/03/2011 08:16:30

PDP's do-or-die politics is in action. Innocent souls are being wasted. The evil being perpetrated by **PDP** will surely live after it.



1

**Prof. Ekpenyong** on 23/03/2011 08:35:52

After going through all the editorials about the political madness and heartless politically motivated killings in Akwa Ibom State, I started to wonder whether there is anything left of the love and peace we have been noted for as a people from cradle.



0

**unwana iwok** on 23/03/2011 08:35:58

this will go along way to educate Godswill/**PDP** that nobody has the monopoly of violence or monopoly of anything as the case maybe.



1

**ben** on 23/03/2011 17:27:00

This is barbaric and irresponsibility of the highest order. Are the people of that area so miopic in view that no other party should come to campaign except **PDP**? That shows that we have not started this journey of civilisation at all in this country. Please wake up from this evil dream.



0

**Israel Adebare** on 23/03/2011 17:27:53

Where are we going Nigerians?, let us use love eachother in everything. This world is just a market, let's beware of our actions, Heaven is our peaceful home.



2

**Inem Nsiky Inyangetok** on 23/03/2011 17:28:39



Let the love and peaceful co-existence between the ethnic groups in Akwa Ibom State continue to be. Akwa Ibom people should not let or allow few never do well politicians ignite ethnic hatred. **PDP** or **ACN** politicians should bury the hatchet and sell friendly manifestos and programmes to the electorate. It took our forefathers toils, sweat, gnashing of teeth to have the state called Akwa Ibom. The political gladiators in the ongoing political feud should call their supporters to order. All contributors on this medium let's be objective in our comments and not inciteful. Akwa Ibom State must be and peaceful co-existence amongst the ethnic groups is our watchword



0

**Michael** on 23/03/2011 17:42:24



with what is happening now, i begin to wonder if these politicians are really looking out for the good of the masses. GOD SAVE NIGERIA.



1

**lawlaw** on 23/03/2011 17:43:03



akpabio is making it do or die. In fact **pdp** is not helping matters in akwa ibom violence is not the way out for him to win rather it will bring his personality down, stop violence let us operate on free and fair election after all jonathan beat down atiku in atiku own state, it is possible that udoedehe will beat godswill down in his own local government that is why he is afraid.



1

**inem Nsiky Inyangetok** on 23/03/2011 18:22:22



Violence, inflammatory statements and destructive tendencies do not mend fences. People should stop pointing accusing fingers. Rather Akwa Ibom people should bury this style of politics with bitterness. We love Akwa Ibom State, and we love all the ethnic groups in the state.



-2

1 [2](#) > total: 28 | displaying: 1 - 20

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