

DPO killed, 12 arrested in Ibadan over kidnappers' den rumour

Tribune staff member molested

BY OLUWATOVIN MALIK AND
GBENGA OLUMIDE

A Divisional Police Officer (DPO) in charge of a police station in Oyo State Police Command (names withheld) was, on Wednesday evening killed by hoodlums at Adekile Area of Ibadan, after rumours went round town that a kidnappers' den exists in a storey building in the area.

Nigerian Tribune gathered that the owner of the storey building had gone to a nearby police station to report that hoodlums were about to burn his house over an allegation of an existing kidnappers' den.

Two police teams were reportedly deployed to the area to assess the environment but nothing incriminating or depicting a semblance of a terror den was found.

Unappeased, hoodlums in the area had insisted on burning the building, a situation which made the DPO to go to the scene to see things himself.

It was gathered that when the DPO could not substantiate the claims of the rampaging hoodlums who had formed a mob, he appealed to them not to burn the house.

His appeal was said to have met with the anger of the hoodlums, who descended on him with machetes and all kinds of cudgels, inflicting injuries on him until he dropped dead.

The slain DPO was said to have been rushed to the hospital but died on the way. Unconfirmed reports had it that the hoodlums went away with his service pistol.

When the Nigerian Tribune got to the scene of the incident, people were seen scampering into safety when a detachment of different police teams arrived at the scene, shooting teargas to

disperse the hoodlums.

Speaking with the Nigerian Tribune, a resident in the area, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said that what people regarded as kidnappers' den was not confirmed.

He said that rumour doing the round was that a girl who had been missing for some days was found in front of the said storey building with an old man.

It was further claimed that

by the time the brother went to call his mother, the girl was nowhere to be found, prompting the people to start peddling the rumour of the building being a kidnappers' den.

The door of the house was reportedly forced open, and the mob met a woman in purdah.

The resident also told Nigerian Tribune that it was during the process of checking the house that the

owner of the house went to report at the police station.

He said that the people were furious when they saw the police and started throwing stones.

It was learnt that the house was subsequently set ablaze while unconfirmed report also had it that a boy named Sodiq lost his life in the process.

A staff from the Nigerian Tribune, Wande S-Davies, who went to cover the

pandemonium, was also mobbed by the hoodlums who descended on him, tore his clothes, stoned him, stole his money, mobile phone and smashed his camera.

When contacted, the state Commissioner of Police, Muhammad Musa Katsina, confirmed the report, saying that 12 suspected ring leaders had been arrested by a special force sent to the scene for

reinforcement and maintenance of peace.

Katsina decried a situation where people would take laws into their hands, pointing out that the life of a senior officer who was carrying out his legitimate duty was abruptly terminated by "unscrupulous elements" for no reason.

He said the command would seek the support of the community leaders to arrest other fleeing suspects.

We fought a good fight — Fani-Kayode

•Congratulates Buhari •Says Jonathan is a statesman

LEON USIGBE AND JACOB
SEGUN OLATUNJI-ABUJA

THE Peoples Democratic Party Presidential Campaign Organisation (PDP-PCO) has congratulated the president-elect, Major-General Muhammadu Buhari (ret'd) for his victory at the presidential poll, noting that the PDP fought a good fight but lost the election.

Addressing the media in Abuja, on Wednesday, the director of media and publicity of the organisation, Chief Femi Fani-Kayode, also expressed gratitude to Nigerians for supporting President Goodluck Jonathan and urged them to support the incoming administration.

"We fought a virile, strong, aggressive and very effective campaign on behalf of our candidate, President Goodluck Jonathan and we put the case to the Nigerian people as to why we believe that he ought to have been elected as president for a second term.

"We are very proud of the efforts of our president and of our party and we are also very proud of the efforts of every single one of those who participated in the presidential campaign organisation," he said.

Showering encomiums on the staff of the campaign

media directorate, Fani-Kayode reiterated the words of President Jonathan on the outcome of the election.

"We start by saying that we commend and congratulate General Muhammadu Buhari for winning this election. We also wish to commend our candidate, President Goodluck Jonathan, for having the courage to concede that he has lost the election at the earliest moment and also for being able to stand up and rise above party politics and speak like a statesman.

"We, therefore, urge the Nigerian people and our

teeming supporters to stand firm and continue to support the democratic process and continue to agitate for a better Nigeria.

"We urge them to continue to support our party, the PDP, as best as they can, though we lost this election. We ask them to cooperate with the incoming government and to remember that we are first and foremost Nigerians before anything else," he added.

Fani-Kayode said his message had always been that, more than anything else, "we should try our very best to keep the peace in

this country and to keep the country moving forward."

The campaign spokesman reminded Nigerians that in every election there would always be a winner and a loser, saying that "it is a mark of our humanity and it is also symptomatic of the type of people that we are and who we are that when the time comes, we can say we fought a good fight but we lost.

"And having lost, it does not mean that it is the end to the world, it just means that we need to re-group, re-organise ourselves and begin the process all over

again, because another elections will come in a few years' time.

"And that is where we are today. We have conceded that we have lost. We acknowledge the fact that we fought a good fight. We do not have any fears about the future. We did the right thing during the campaign. We have no regrets about our candidate or the way in which we conducted our campaign and we will live to fight another day."

He commended his rivals in the opposition campaign for also standing up for what they believed in, adding that there was absolutely nothing personal as regards the actions of his media directorate.

"I had nothing personal against anybody. I was simply doing my job for which I have no regrets and I wish them well and I sincerely hope that they will take Nigeria to a level that we can all be proud of.

"May God grant each and everyone of us peace. May He watch over our nation. May He guide our president for the next two months whilst he is still in power and thereafter may He guide and lead the president-elect, General Muhammadu Buhari, in the herculean task that lies ahead for him.

"My prayer is that he

My electoral defeat, blessing for me, my family — Yuguda

Congratulates Buhari

SALIU GBADAMOSI-BAUCHI

BAUCHI State governor, Mallam Isa Yuguda, on Wednesday, congratulated president-elect, General Muhammadu Buhari, on his victory at the presidential polls, even as he declared that he had accepted his defeat in the Bauchi South senatorial election in good faith.

Addressing journalists at the Executive Chamber of the Government House, Bauchi, Yuguda, who contested the election on the platform of the Peoples

Democratic Party (PDP) and lost to All Progressives Congress (APC) candidate, Mallam Ali Wakili, stated that his loss was a blessing for him and his family.

While congratulating Buhari for winning the presidential election, Governor Yuguda saluted the president-elect for his doggedness and courage, which he had been exhibited since 2003, when he had been contesting elections for the presidency before winning it this year.

He, therefore, prayed God to grant the General the wis-

dom to pilot the affairs of the country for the betterment of the country and its people.

Yuguda also congratulated Mallam Wakili for his success in the Bauchi South senatorial election, while extending the felicitation to all the APC candidates who won their National Assembly elections in the state.

He, however, urged the winners to give their respective constituencies in the state effective representation at the National Assembly, adding that it had become imperative for them to attract meaningful development to their constituents.

PDP has no merger agreement with opposition parties in Oyo — Eolarin