

# #EndSARS protest: 3 feared killed, Oyetola, Fayemi attacked

## •It was assassination attempt by hoodlums —Osun Govt

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**N**O fewer than three persons were feared killed in Osogbo, the Osun State capital, on Saturday as #EndSARS protest turned bloody, just as the state governor, Mr Gboyega Oyetola, was attacked by suspected hoodlums during the protest which left scores injured.

His deputy, Benedict Alabi and the Secretary to the State Government, Wole Oyeibamiji, were scurried to safety during the attack.

This is just as the convoy of the Ekiti State governor, Dr Kayode Fayemi, was also stoned by angry protesters who wanted him to address them.

Governor Oyetola had joined the protesters in a walk from Alekuwodo area to Olaiya junction, singing with them and promising that their demands would be looked into.

While addressing them, the protesters shouted and demanded apology from him for not giving them audience since they began the protest in the state.

They equally accused him of sending thugs to attack them during their earlier protests.

Responding, the governor debunked the allegation he sent thugs after the protesters and vowed to investigate the matter.

He said "You are all my sons and I would not want any evil to befall you."

He assured them of his support, saying peaceful agitations were a part of the democratic process.

But the state Commissioner for Information and Civic Orientation, Mrs Funke Egbemode, said the attack was beyond the #EndSARS protest, describing it as a pre-meditated attempt to kill the governor.

"While still addressing the youths, the armed men and women started shooting, hurling stones at the governor's car. They also shot at the deputy governor, Mr Benedict Alabi, damaging his vehicles.

"It was an assassination attempt. This was certainly beyond the #EndSARS protest. The people who launched the attack were not protesters at

all. They were hoodlums with evil intentions.

"Protests have been going on in the state for some days now, and there had been no attack on any government official since the beginning of the protest.

"However, today's [Saturday's] attack changed the narrative. It was not a spontaneous attempt. The attackers had it all planned. They had guns and other weapons. In fact, it was a woman who smashed the windscreen of the vehicle of the Secretary to the State Government, Wole Oyeibamiji where I was.

"It is really sad that these people infiltrated the ranks of the peaceful protesters and took advantage of the governor's walk with the youths to execute their sinister inten-

tions.

"It was simply a street coup to take out the governor, his deputy and the Secretary to the State Government, all of whom were exposed during the protest and had to be smuggled into vehicles when the attack was launched," Egbemode stated.

One of the protesters who was shot during the demonstration and was rushed to the state's Ladoke Akintola University of Technology (LAUTECH) hospital in Osogbo later died.

**Sunday Tribune** gathered that the protester died shortly he was brought to the hospital and the family of the deceased took his body away.

One of the medical personnel at the hospital who preferred anonymity told

**Sunday Tribune** that the shot man died shortly after he was brought into the hospital.

A top security operative who preferred anonymity also said two other people died at the Old Garage area of Osogbo.

The incident caused disorderliness in the state as other protesters blamed the shooting on the security personnel attached to the governor.

Some of the protesters stormed a filling station at Odilowo, Osogbo where they forced petrol attendants to give them fuel in kegs and thereafter made bonfires in some strategic places in the city.

In the ensuing melee, the city became ghostly as residents deserted the streets for the fear of being violently attacked.

How Fayemi was attacked in Ado Ekiti

Nobody can stop this