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Ekiti killing: ACN chair whisked to Force Headquarters

ABIODUN NEJO | April 4, 2013 | No Comments »



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- *Ex-governor lied –Commissioner*

Indications emerged yesterday that the Ekiti State Chairman of the Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN), Chief Jide Awe, has been whisked to the Force Headquarters in Abuja for interrogation over his role in the killing of a Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) member, Mr. Ayo Jeje.

Jeje was allegedly killed last Saturday by some suspected ACN supporters at Erinjiyan-Ekiti.

Awe was said to have been whisked to Abuja at about 5:am yesterday on the order of the Police Inspector- General (IGP), Alhaji Mohammed Abubakar.

He was initially detained at the state police command on Tuesday in Ado-Ekiti after he was quizzed on the matter by the Commissioner of Police, Mr Sotonye Wakama.

PDP had accused Awe of complicity in the murder of Jeje, a former ACN member, who was to defect to the party alongside many others on Sunday.

ACN Publicity Secretary, Prince Tunde Adeleke, who confirmed that Awe was invited to the Force Headquarters for fact-finding, disagreed that the party leader was detained.

Adeleke said: "Awe is not a criminal and no case has been established against him, so why must he be detained by the police? There is no iota of truth in the rumour that Awe was detained before being taken to Abuja.

"It was true that our chairman was invited to Abuja and the invitation was just for fact-finding over the Erinjiyan issue. He was neither arrested nor harassed as being peddled around by the PDP. The invitation is normal under this circumstance."

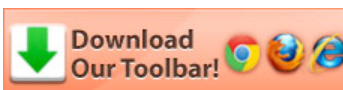


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But the Ekiti State police spokesman, Mr. Victor Babayemi Olu, told journalists on phone that Awe was invited on Tuesday and was allowed to go after interrogation.

The spokesman, who said he could not confirm whether or not the ACN chairman had been invited by the Force Headquarters, added: "Chief Jide Awe is a Nigerian and I think if Abuja has something to confirm from him, he can be invited".

This was even as former Ekiti State Governor Ayodele Fayose accused the ACN-led government of mounting pressure on the police to sweep the killing under the carpet.

Fayose, who called on the IGP to ensure proper investigation into the matter was conducted, also asked the state police commissioner to resist attempts to frustrate the issue.

The former governor told journalists at his Afao-Ekiti residence yesterday that the spate of killings perpetrated by ACN supporters was worrisome, adding: "More disturbing is the impunity with which they carry out these dastardly acts".

Fayose said: "We are telling the IGP to do something about killings in Ekiti State. Something is fundamentally wrong here. A state of anarchy may be created here if the Police High Command does not do something urgently.

"The killings perpetrated by ACN supporters are evidence that the Fayemi government has failed. If not, why should they be killing when they are in government?"

The former governor asked the police to make public the outcome of the investigation conducted by the Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) on the series of attacks launched against his campaign train last year November and other reported cases of murder in the state.

But the Commissioner for Information, Mr Tayo Ekundayo, said Fayose's allegations were figment of his imagination, saying the government was not frustrating the police over investigations into the Erinjiyan killing.

Ekundayo, who said Fayemi would not aid nor abet criminality under any guise, said the ACN would come out with its position on the alleged indictment of some of its members in the Erinjiyan killing.

He said: "Killing is a grievous offence and Fayemi frowns at it. So, we are appealing to the commissioner of police to investigate the matter thoroughly and in most professional way and bring the culprits to book".

Meanwhile, a member of the House of Representatives, Hon Oyetunde Ojo, has accused PDP of using the federal might to oppress members of the ruling ACN on the killing.

Ojo, who described the arrest of ACN chairman as oppression, said: "ACN knows nothing about the Erinjiyan killing. It is disheartening that our chairman was arrested by the police. No member of the PDP has been invited by the police since they started investigation.

"Chief Jide Awe was invited by the police on Tuesday because he is a chief in the town. I learnt that he was arrested by policemen this morning (Wednesday) and whisked away to an unknown destination."

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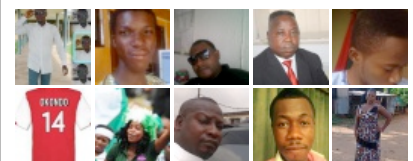
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