

One confirmed dead in Osogbo clash

Tunde Odesola, Osogbo

A 17-year-old Senior Secondary School student of St. Mark's Grammar School, Osogbo, Kehinde Ahmed, has been confirmed dead following a violent clash between supporters of the Alliance for Democracy and the Peoples Democratic Party on Saturday in Osogbo.

Supporters of Governor Olagunsoye Oyinlola and those of an AD gubernatorial aspirant, Mr. Rauf Aregbesola, clashed at a public function, using guns, machetes, swords, daggers and clubs.

Our correspondent gathered that Ahmed, who is the son of the Chief Imam of Oke-Ayo Mosque on Ibikunle Street in Osogbo, slumped during the imbroglio.

A neighbour of the deceased's, who spoke with our correspondent on Sunday, said Ahmed might have died out of exertion.

"When he slumped, there was nobody to come to his rescue. The violence was going on then. He had died before calm was restored," the neighbour said.

Kehinde was at the event to serve food and drinks to guests.

He was buried on Saturday soon after his death.

Meanwhile, the socio-political organisation of Aregbesola, Oranmiyan, has urged the police to probe the alleged attack on the gubernatorial aspirant.

A statement by the Media Director of Oranmiyan, Mr. Gbenga Fayemiwo, urged the police to investigate the alleged attack on Aregbesola.

But the Osun State Chairman of the PDP, Mr. Ademola Rasak, said the event showed that the AD was planning to employ vio-

lence in the 2007 elections.

Rasak, who condemned the violence, said it was high time politics was played decently by the AD.

A statement by the Publicity Secretary of the AD in the state, Mr. Adejare Adebisi, said the attack on Aregbesola was premeditated.

Meanwhile, the Commissioner of Police, Osun State Command, Mr. Sulaimon Fakai, has debunked the claim by Oranmiyan that the police shot at Aregbesola's car.

Fakai, in a statement on Sunday, said the police tolerated the unruly behaviour of Aregbesola's supporters.

Cleric flays ING campaigners

Doyin Adebusi, Ilorin

The President of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria, Archbishop Alaba Job, has described those campaigning for an interim government after the President Olusegun Obasanjo on May 29, 2007 as enemies of Nigeria.

Job, who is also the archbishop of the Ibadan Archdiocese, warned that such people were also courting trouble for the country.

He spoke with newsmen in Ilorin on Saturday before the commencement of a mass held at the St. Josephs Catholic Cathedral, for the transfer of Ilorin Diocese from Kaduna ecclesiastical province to Ibadan ecclesiastical province.

The clergyman cautioned protagonists of interim government to stop and work towards the installation of a democratically elected government in 2007.

He said, "I do not know where those who speak of interim government got the idea from. It is not in our constitution. We are not in an emergency in the country. Why talking about interim

government then?"

He said the nation's constitution was clear on the mode of succession and advised well-meaning Nigerians to discourage such proposal in the interest of the unity of the country.

He added, "And I urge you media practitioners not to encourage that (interim government). If you don't carry it on your radio and television, and people do not read it in the newspapers or on the Internet, nobody will hear such a ridiculous proposition."

Job, who decried the wave

of killings across the country, called on the law enforcement agents to check the trend.

"It makes my heart bleeds. Foreign readers of Nigerian newspapers on the Internet will be made to believe that Nigeria is not a safe place," he said.

He said the transfer of the Ilorin diocese to Ibadan ecclesiastical province would enable the religious to "share in the love and joy of their own culture and tradition with their kith and kin - the Yoruba - of the Catholic church in the new province."

Emir denies embezzling kingmakers

Doyin Adebusi, Ilorin

The Emir of Ilorin, Alhaji Ibrahim Sulu Gambari, has denied embezzling the allowances of the deposed kingmakers of the emirate.

The emir said this on Saturday at the presentation of four new E-class Mercedes Benz cars to the new kingmakers.

It will be recalled that the emir had in September 2005, replaced three kingmakers - Alhaji Laaro Abdulkarim (Balogun Gambari), Alhaji Saka Aleshinloye (Baba Isale), and Alhaji Adio Alanamu,

(Balogun Alanamu).

He also appointed Alhaji Aremu Zubair as the Magaji Are to replace Alhaji Saadu Are, who had earlier been installed by the Idiape community to succeed the late Alhaji Busari Alabi Alasa, the father of the former governor of Kwara state, Alhaji Mohammed Lawal.

The deposed high chiefs had in a petition to President Olusegun Obasanjo accused the emir of embezzling their monthly stipends over a period of about three years. He was also alleged