

# Gunmen attack Atiku's associate

Semi Olanlawon

## ...kill security guard, driver

A political associate of Vice-President Atiku Abubakar, and chairman, Action Congress' steering committee in the United Kingdom, Dr. Yakub Abdallah, was on Monday morning attacked by unknown gunmen who killed his security guard and driver.

Abdallah, who hailed from Adamawa State, had arrived Nigeria on Friday, February 2, to represent the UK chapter of the Action Congress at the par-

ty's presentation of the flag to the vice-president as its presidential candidate for the April 2007 election in Kano.

The attack was said to have taken place at about 8am on Monday, about seven kilometres after Kaduna along the Kaduna-Abuja Expressway.

He was said to be on his way to keep an appointment with the National Chairman of the AC, Chief Bisi Akande, in Abuja.

Abdallah, who spoke with our correspondent on the telephone on Tuesday from Kaduna, said he was travelling in a Mercedes Benz car, which was driven by his driver, whom he identified as Hopeson Edwin, and was accompanied by his security guard whom he identified as Umar Barde.

Narrating his ordeal, Abdallah said a black jeep had pulled up near his car forcing his driver to stop while the men,

whom he said, were dressed in what looked like mobile police uniform, ordered all the occupants of the car to come down.

He said, "I thought they were armed robbers. Two of the people had guns with them. One of them led my driver to one direction while the other one with gun also led my security man to an opposite direction.

"The third person had no gun but was holding a big stick. That one also led me to another

direction. They then ordered us to lie down. Within just one minute, all I heard were gunshots and the wailing of my driver and my security man. And immediately they left and drove off in their jeep. When I raised my head, I discovered the two of them were dead."

Abdallah explained that he was sure to be the target of the attackers but that they failed to recognise him in his shirt and trousers.

He added, "It was unusual for me to wear shirt and trousers as I did on Monday. But my plan was to change in my house when I get to Abuja before going to meet Chief Akande. But the two people with me were in *kaftan* and I am sure those people felt their main target must be one of those in *kaftans*."

Abdallah said the sound of gunshots attracted the attention of soldiers at the Kalapanzin Artillery Barrack and policemen from Kazuwan Magani, who came to his rescue immediately after the attackers had left.

Both Edwin and Barde were said to have been buried in Kaduna on Monday.

When contacted in Abuja on Tuesday, the National Chairman of the AC said he had slated an appointment with Abdallah on Monday in Abuja and was actually waiting for him at the appointed time when he got news of the attack.

Akande said, "Abdallah wanted to see me in Kano during the rally on Saturday but I could not see him. I then gave him an appointment for Monday and he said he would come from Kaduna to meet me. The only thing I heard was that he had been attacked."

Police Public Relations Officer for the Nigeria Police, Kaduna Command, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Yahaya Saa'd, said he was not aware of the incident.



•L-R: Chairman, National Action Committee on AIDS; Prof. Babatunde Osotimehin; one of the longest known persons living with HIV and a renowned expert on Corporate Wellness and Positive Living, Mr. David Patient; Managing Director, Shell Nigeria Exploration, Mr. Chima Ibeneche; and Dr. Neil Orr, during an interactive session on integrating wellness into the workplace organised by Shell Nigeria Exploration and Production Company Limited in Lagos...on Tuesday. Photo: Soji Adegbesan.

## ANPP moves to stop Kebbi governor from defecting

Chiawo Nwankwo, Abuja

THE All Nigeria Peoples Party said on Tuesday that it was making frantic efforts to reach Kebbi State Governor, Alhaji Adamu Aliero, and others reported to have plans to defect to the Peoples Democratic Party.

The party also said it had not yet received any letter from the Economic and Financial Crimes

errors and criticised them for allowing Buhari to emerge as the party's presidential candidate, much against its secret pact with them before the party's primaries in December.

Ayuk said, "We heard it as a rumour. If it becomes a reality, we will react accordingly."

On what the party had done to ascertain the true position, he

said, "We have been making efforts to reach him (Aliero).

"In a couple of hours we will reach him and know the true position as to whether he is leaving the party or not. And if it becomes clearer that he is leaving the party, the party will make statement appropriately."

Aliero, with two other ANPP governors were alleged to have

held secret meeting on the plan to ditch the party at the behest of the Presidency.

Okechukwu said, "The ANPP governors are under pressure from the Presidency to disassociate from Buhari presidential campaign. They see them as having reneged from an agreement reached before our convention."