

One killed, 14 injured in Oyo, Osun, Delta

**Sola Adebayo,
Akin Oyedele,
Tunde Odesola,
Sunday Aborisade and
Olalekan Adetayo**

ONE person was killed and 14 others injured between Wednesday and Thursday in three separate incidents in Oyo, Osun and Delta states.

The deceased — Mr. Femi Falegan— and a former member of the Senate, Chief Festus Ola, were said to have been shot in Ibadan, Oyo State, on Wednesday night by gunmen suspected to be assassins.

Seven of the 13 other injured persons were shot on Thursday by men of the Joint Task Force in the Niger Delta, Operation Restore Hope.

The third incident was a free-for-all at a meeting by the Osun State chapter of the Peoples Democratic Party in Iragbiji, Boripe Local Government Area of Osun State. Six people were wounded in the fracas.

Police sources told our correspondents on Thursday that the gunmen shot Falegan, a prominent businessman

dead in a Toyota Camry marked ABUJA: GE 636 ABC.

The car is said to be owned by Ola, who represented the Ekiti Central Senatorial District from 2003 to 2007 in the Senate.

It was learnt that Falegan, a miner and a close associate of Ola, was waiting for the driver of the car when the bandits struck.

The driver and one other person were said to have taken permission from the two men to go for their dinner.

Sources told our correspondents that Ola and Falegan were on their way home from a meeting with a village head whose father was on admission at the University College Hospital when the incident occurred.

One of the sources said that the former senator was shot on his right leg while trying to revive Falegan, who was dying beside him.

Ola was scheduled to meet with the former Lagos State Governor, Asiawaju Bola Tinubu, on Thursday to discuss

his case at the Court of Appeal. He is challenging the election of a Peoples Democratic Party candidate in the Ekiti Central Senatorial District.

The Personal Assistant to the former senator, Mr. Femi Fadahunsi, who spoke with journalists at the scene of the incident, said that Falegan and Ola were probably being trailed from the hospital.

The Deputy Commissioner of Police in charge of the state command, Mr. Ralph Ibeazor, confirmed the incident on Thursday. He said the matter was reported to the police by one Mr. Ogundana.

Our correspondent in Osogbo gathered that the Iragbiji fracas began when a faction of the party in Boripe LGA allegedly accused the Yinka Adejo-led faction of domination.

Adejo, who is the party's secretary in the state, and the Chairman, Alhaji Ademola Rasaqwas, were said to have attended the meeting.

The protesting faction during the meeting alleged that Adejo's faction had attempted

to undermine its interest.

It was gathered that Adejo had attempted to explain his side of the case when some persons from the aggrieved faction booed him, leading to the free-for-all.

The seven people wounded by the JTF in the Delta State incident were said to be among scores of indigenes protesting close to the Escravos Tank Farm and Loading Terminal in Ugborodo, Warri South West Local Government Area.

The authorities of the task force said the protesters were planning to attack the tank farm and terminal operated by the American oil giant, Chevron Nigeria Limited.

They added the operatives sank two boats used by the protesters whom they described as militants.

The Public Relations Officer of the Ugborodo Community Trust, Mr. Ayiri Emami, gave the names of protesters currently in critical conditions as Miss Toju Akitikori, Mr. John Aribi, Mr. Anthony Mene and Mr. James Arubi.