

Three killed as Lagos APC, PDP youths clash



At least three people lost their lives on Lagos Island on Saturday and Sunday after members of the All Progressives Congress and members of the Peoples Democratic Party clashed.

Our correspondent learnt that trouble started immediately after President Goodluck Jonathan and other PDP national leaders ended a rally at the Tafawa Balewa Square on Saturday.

It was learnt that some boys known as the Abija group, attacked and killed a chairman of the National Union of Road Transport Workers, Alhaji Azeez Asake.

Two of the assailants identified as Olokodana and Ade Lawyer were said to have led the attack on the deceased.

The Lagos State chapter of the All Progressive Congress said Olokodana and Ade Lawyer were supporters of the Minister of State for Defence, Mr. Musiliu Obanikoro.

The APC in a statement issued by its Publicity Secretary, Mr. Joe Igbokwe, said Obanikoro's boys also killed one Wasiu Lawal in Ajah last week.

He said, "After the PDP South-West rally in Lagos on Saturday, one Alhaji Azeez Asake of the APC was shot and killed by the notorious Abija group led by one Olokodana and Ade Lawyer loyal to Senator Musliu Obanikoro; a junior minister in the Ministry of Defence."

"Two weeks ago the same murderous group shot and killed one Wasiu Lawal in Ajah where APC members hold their weekly meetings. The police in Ajah are still investigating the crime but no arrest has been made. On Saturday's shootings, we have yet to hear that an arrest has been made to bring the murderers to justice."

The APC warned that if security agencies did nothing about Obanikoro's behaviour, it would allow its own members to defend themselves.

On Sunday afternoon, however, two PDP youths were allegedly killed by APC youths in Ebute Ero in retaliation of Asake's murder.

It was learnt that it took a combined team of policemen from several formations to restore peace in the area.

All attempts to reach Obanikoro proved abortive as he was said to have travelled out of the country. Similarly, his media aide, Godwin Ohimai, could not be reached on phone.

However, an aide to Obanikoro, who spoke to our correspondent on the condition of anonymity, denied the former senator's involvement in the alleged crime.

He said Obanikoro could not be held responsible for the various groups that converged on the venue.

He said, “We heard about the incident but we don’t want to be associated with such. It has nothing to do with us. The killing was as a result of a disagreement between those involved and it will be unfair to blame Obanikoro.

“The truth is that because Obanikoro is from Lagos Island, everybody there likes to associate with him but he knows nothing about this incident.”

The Police Public Relations Officer, Ngozi Braide, confirmed the killings to our correspondent on the telephone.

“About three people were killed after a clash but the area is now calm. However, investigations are ongoing while policemen are patrolling the affected areas,” she said.

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Contact: editor@punchng.com

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