

Military hand over Al Jazeera journalists to DSS

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THE military authorities have handed over two journalists working with Doha-based international television, Al Jazeera, to the State Security Services.

The Defence authorities had said in a statement on Wednesday, last week that the two journalists were restrained for roaming in the mission area without authorisation and necessary security arrangement from the military.

It was learnt that the journalists were being handed over to the leadership of the State Department for further interrogation and possible release.

It was further gathered that the nation's security chiefs had to take the precautionary measure of handing over the two journalists to the SSS to prevent people from straying into such sensitive operational areas without authorisation.

It was stated that the journalists involved in the issue are Nigerians who were being treated in accordance with Nigerian laws.

The source said that the military and the intelligence community would not tolerate any suspected incidence of spying.

"The thing is that they are being transferred to the DSS who will handle the subsequent interrogation.

"As it is expected, they would be released eventually but we are trying to pass a message that people should not violate our security procedure in the name of journalism.

"Any form of suspected spying or trespassing in a restricted area would not be tolerated.

Police begin manhunt for Rivers APC chieftain's killers

CRIME

THE Rivers State Police Command said on Saturday that it had begun a manhunt for the killers of the former council chairman of Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Area, Chief Christopher Adube and eight other persons.

The unknown gunmen also shot and killed Adube's two children, his driver and some members of the All

Progressives Congress, who visited him at his Obrikom residence.

Two persons were injured during the mayhem unleashed in Obrikom/Obor communities while the hoodlums escaped unscathed.

Reacting to the incident on Saturday, the State Police Public Relations Officer,

Mr. Ahmad Mohammad, told *SUNDAY PUNCH* that contrary to reports that seven persons lost their lives in the night raid, the hoodlums actually killed nine persons.

Mohammad explained that the police was leaving no stone unturned to track down those responsible for the killing of the ex-council boss, his children and six others.

He said, "It was about 19.30

hours of last Friday when some unknown armed men invaded Obrikom/Obor communities and went on a shooting spree, killing nine and injuring two in the process.

"The house of an APC House of Assembly candidate, Vincent Ogbuagu, was set ablaze. However, a manhunt for the criminals is on as we appeal to members of the public to assist in making

available credible information in this respect."

The State APC had since reacted to the killing of the former council chairman and eight others, even as it identified some of those killed as party members.

Rivers State deputy chairman of the APC, Prince Peter Odiche, told *SUNDAY PUNCH* that the Peoples Democratic Party was responsible for the night raid that claimed nine lives in Obrikom and Obor communities.

"We are not unaware that this is the handiwork of the PDP as this is happening few days to the governorship election. The PDP in ONELGA want to intimidate us; they (PDP) don't want APC members to come out and vote on April 11," Odiche stated.

But the State Publicity Secretary of the PDP, Mr. Samuel Nwanosike, dismissed Odiche's claim, maintaining that the APC was always politicising matters bordering on human lives and security.

"If the APC chieftain is accusing the PDP in ONELGA for an incident that just occurred, then the police should interrogate him (APC chieftain). The PDP in ONELGA is not violent. So, the police should be allowed to do their investigation."



•L-R: Wife of Oyo State Governor, Mrs. Florence Ajimobi; Governor Abiola Ajimobi; bride's father, Mr. Segun Abolarinwa; his wife, Deola; and wife of the Osun State governor, Mrs. Sherifat Aregbesola, at the wedding ceremony of the Personal Assistant to Mrs. Ajimobi, Damola Abolarinwa, at the Kakanfo Inn and Conference Centre, in Ibadan... on Saturday. Photo: Oyo State Government House

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