

One feared killed as gunmen attack PDP rally in Rivers

Published November 16, 2018



PDP

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ONE person was reportedly killed while the Chairman of Ikwerre LGA of Rivers State, Samuel Nwanosike, narrowly escaped death on Wednesday as gunmen attacked a rally organised by some Peoples Democratic Party leaders in Ipo community.

It was learnt that some supporters of the PDP sustained injuries of varying degrees as they tried to escape being hit by the bullets of the gunmen, who disrupted the ward-to-ward programme of the party to sensitise voters to the Permanent Voter Cards.

It was also gathered that the gunmen numbering over 30 invaded the venue for the event and began to shoot, forcing supporters to scamper for safety.

Nwanosike was said to have been rushed to a hospital immediately after the incident as others, who sustained injuries were also moved out of the venue to a place they could get urgent treatment.

A source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the gunmen vandalised many cars parked close to the venue for the programme.

The source explained that Nwanosike and a few others were able to escape by a whisker because they drove in a bullet-proof vehicle.

“At the peak of the PDP event in Ipo, gunmen entered and opened fire. Our leaders narrowly escaped death.

“The boys numbering over 30 chased out leaders who were in a bullet-proof car and they shot at the car.”

The Rivers State Publicity Secretary of the PDP, Darlington Orji, accused the All Progressives Congress in the state of masterminding the attack.

He said, “All the leaders of APC in the LGA engaged one man known as School Boy, who was declared wanted by the state government, to attack us.

“They attacked us around 2pm. They killed one of our members. We informed the security agencies of the threats and signal we received and it has happened.”

But the State Publicity Secretary of the APC, Mr. Chris Finebone, denied any involvement of his party in the said attack on.

He said, “We know nothing about what they are saying. We understand that their attackers are their former allies, who killed and maimed APC members in the 2015 election and subsequent elections, who felt abandoned by the PDP. At least, that’s the information we have heard.”

The state Police Public Relations Officer, Nnamdi Omoni, confirmed the attack.

However, he said he was not aware that anybody was killed in the incident.

Omoni explained that three persons, who sustained life-threatening injuries, were rushed to the hospital and are currently receiving medical attention.

He promised that those behind the shooting at the PDP programme would be arrested and brought to book.