

ing for help and we came out to help them but the in-

cident.

...As police kill one at Valentine's Day party in Kwara

FROM LAYI
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The Valentine's Day party held last Friday in Oro, Irepodun Local Government Area, Kwara State turned tragic when a police stray bullet killed 35-year-old Femi Oladipo, a former Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) chairmanship aspirant in the November 2013 local government election.

Eyewitness account said Oladipo was shot dead by a drunk policeman engaged to provide security during the Valentine's Day party.

It was gathered that at about 11:15pm, fun seekers had converged on Topmost Hotel in Oro, where the deceased was sitting at a corner alone.

Oladipo was said to have just returned from the United States of America, where his family lives and was penciled down for appointment as Secretary of the Council. He was said to be a regular visitor to the hotel located not far from his house and served as a relaxation spot for him any time he was in the town.

According to the *Sunday Sun* source, the management of the hotel had invited policemen to provide security for the Valentine's Day party, but the unnamed drunken policeman dosed off briefly. He suddenly stirred when he heard noise of troublemakers and shot twice into the air.

"After the tension was doused, he was about to rest again when the butt of the gun hit the wall and discharged a bullet that hit late Oladipo on the chest, exited through his back and hit the wall again," the source said.

The victim tried to stand up after the bullet hit him, but he fell down. He died before he could be given first aid. The lifeless body of the deceased was then taken to the University of Ilorin Teaching Hospital (UIITH) and deposited in the mortuary.

The death of the former PDP chairmanship aspirant triggered wild protest by the youths of Oro town. When Sunday Sun visited the town, some anti-riot policemen and soldiers were seen in the town to restore law and order.

Confirming the incident, the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) of the Kwara State Police Command, ASP Ajayi Okasanmi acknowledged that a policeman's gun was accidentally discharged and killed a man at the hotel where he was to provide security. He stated that the officer affected had been arrested and currently undergoing police orderly interrogation at the Kwara State Police headquarters, Ilorin.

The chairman of the council, Hon. Luqman Owolewa described the incident as "very unfortunate."

He said he had appealed to the aggrieved people to exercise restraint, assuring that justice would surely be done in the matter.