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Man Killed, 4 Injured in Ekiti PDP, AC Clash

From Toba Suleiman in Ado-Ekiti, 03.10.2009

One person was killed, while four others who are members of the Action
Congress (AC) in Oye-Ekiti Local
Government Area of Ekiti State sustained injuries yesterday, following an attack on them by some suspected thugs loval to a Peoples Democratic Party

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(PDP) chieftain in the state, Senator Ayo Arise.

The deceased, whose name was given as Sadiq Ahmed, 33, was among the AC members shot by the thugs in front of Arise's residence in Oye-Ekiti

The incident was said to have occurred at about 7:30am. The AC members were said to be coming from Ido-Osi where the party's gubernatorial candidate, Dr. Kayode Fayemi, launched free health care services for the community.

Among the four who sustained injuries included a 70-year-old woman,

and are currently on admission at an undisclosed hospital in the

Arise, however, said it was the AC that actually attacked his men, and wounded them with dangerous weapons.

According to him, the men he sent to prepare a place at the town hall for 's meeting scheduled for yesterday were attacked by the AC members.

While confirming that he actually heard the sound of gunshots, Arise said that he was in his house, and did not come out, since the incident happened on a major road passing through his country home

About 11 senior and junior doctors led by one Dr. Wale Omirin were in Ido-Osi to administer the drugs and other medication on the patients, who came from all the wards within the council area.

It was gathered that, the town hall, venue of the programme had been booked by AC for the event over a week ago and a receipt was issued

It was, however, gathered that when the senator came home at the weekend, and was informed about the scheduled AC programme, he vowed to disrupt it.

The source further disclosed that on Sunday night, Arise allegedly instructed his thugs to announce that the PDP would be using the same hall yesterday at the same time the AC would be using it.

It was learnt that while the AC programme was in progress, thugs who came to the hall to disrupt it, were repelled by the participants at the event

Having been overpowered by the participants, the thugs were said to have retreated to Arise's compound and ambushed the AC members on their way to Ikole-Ekiti, where the party was to hold a rally.

Arise, in a telephone conversation, said when he came home at the weekend, and was told that AC would be using the hall for a programme, he instructed his men to go and arrange the hall so that he could meet the PDP members in the town and inform them about AC's meeting

slated for Wednesday.

According to him, the purpose of yesterday's meeting was to caution the party members in the community to avoid going to the hall on Wednesday to prevent any clash between AC and PDP.

He said, unfortunately, those he sent to organise the hall were attacked by the AC members, already in the hall.

Reacting to the incident, the state Commissioner of Police, Mr Chris Ola, said though he was yet to be briefed officially, he was aware that there

were shootings at Oye-Ekiti. He said he could not speak officially on the incident until he was briefed by the officers on ground.

In a statement issued in Abuja on Monday by its National Publicity Secretary, Alhaji Lai Mohammed, the party also called for an urgent action by the Inspector-General of Police to prevent an impending breakdown of law and order in the state, ahead of the forthcoming governorship election re-run.

COMMENTS [total: 5]

- if the president and governors had immunity, does the senators have it? If no why did police failed to arrest Arise?
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