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Party Primary: Bandits kill 4 PDP delegates in Niger

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MINNA

Tragedy struck the Niger State chapter of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) on Wednesday as bandits killed four delegates from Mariga Local Government Area while on their way to Minna, venue of the gubernatorial primary.

Announcing the incident at the State PDP Secretariat, venue of the primary in Minna, Chairman of the Electoral Committee and Deputy Governor of Bayelsa State, Lawrence Ewruhjakpo described their death as a tragedy.

New Telegraph gathered that the delegates were killed on Wednesday while returning to Mariga after the party postponed the primary due to a protest by some of the aspirants who expressed distrust with the

delegates' list.

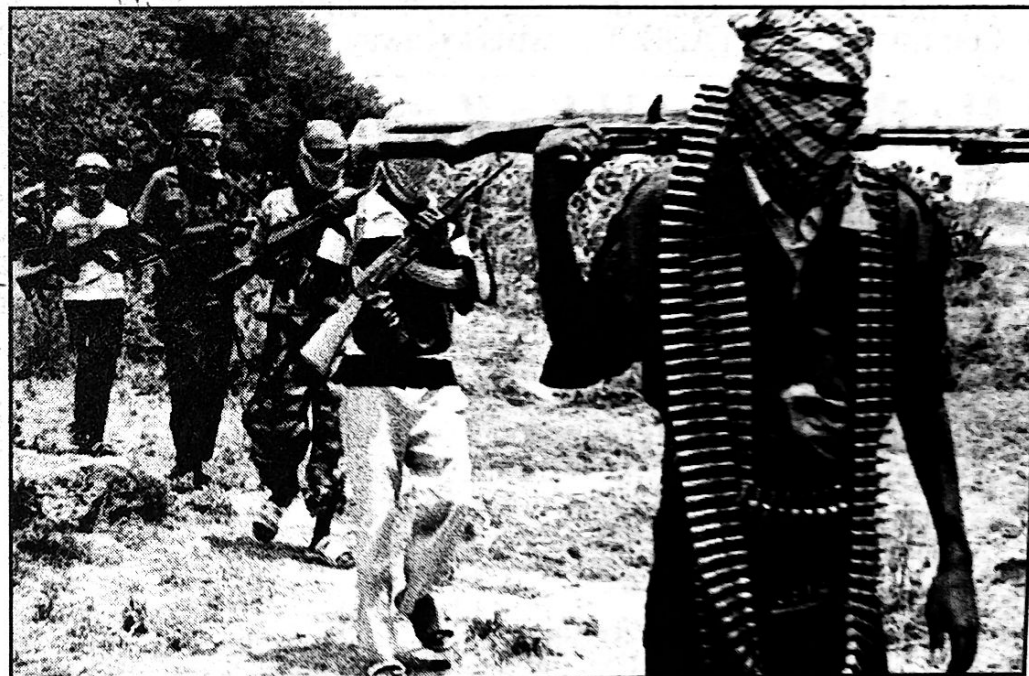
It should be recalled that delegates were asked to bring their means of identification to authenticate their names and the primary was shifted to Thursday.

It was reliably gathered that those who lost their lives in the incident were substituted to complete the number of delegates from the local government.

One of the delegates, Shehu Haruna told journalists that the incident happened between Mariga and Tegin and four people lost their lives.

According to him "we left Minna in the late hours when PDP postponed the governorship primary from Wednesday to Thursday, and that we should go and bring our voter's card or any means of identification.

"We were returning home to get our means of identification and on the road we ran into bandits who opened fire on our ve-



Gunmen

hicle. Though we were able to escape since the driver was not hit, but, four people died instantly."

While calling for permanent security operatives in the area to safeguard travellers and commu-

nities in the area, Haruna said the local government which shares a border with Birnin-Gwari in Kaduna State has served as a hidden spot for bandits who terrorise them regularly.