

Pariya, VP's Aide Escapes Assassination Attempt

Atiku Campaign Organisation has said that Personal Assistant to the Vice President, Mr. Umar Pariya, who has been at the centre of allegations and counter-allegations between the President, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, and the Vice President, Atiku Abubakar, survived an assassination attempt yesterday morning in Abuja.

A statement by the organisation said that security aide to Pariya killed one of the suspected assassins.

The statement reads: "Pariya was not at home when the suspected assassins called because he stayed in Abuja after returning from the airport at 2a.m., following the presidential order that denied the Vice President access to his official plane for a scheduled trip at about mid-night. It is the second attempt by 'armed robbery' within the last 12 months."

Narrating the story, it explained that a team of about five armed men arrived at Pariya's Gwarimpa residence at 7a.m. and gained entry into the compound when they put a gun to the head of a household staff

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member named Ibrahim. "He was abducted on his way back to the house after purchasing a GSM recharge card in the neighborhood. Each armed with a pistol, four of the assassins broke into two groups upon entry into the compound. At gunpoint two of them attempted to force Ibrahim to lead them into the main house through the side/kitchen entrance. When they became convinced that he had none of the keys, they allowed him to proceed to the boys quarters to make a phone call to the main house for the door to be opened.

"While this drama unfolded, the mobile police (Mopol) on duty who had changed into mufti and was preparing to go off-duty encountered one of the armed men who had hidden his gun as he walked aimlessly in the compound. The hoodlum pretended to be a casual worker as he mumbled a greeting and exited the compound when challenged.

"After bolting the small door at the gate, the Mopol was immediately confronted by a

second gunman who demanded his surrender by pointing a cocked pistol at his face. But the brave police officer with lightning reflexes dived into the security post to retrieve his gun. In that split second he was shot twice by the assassin – once on his left arm and once on his right thigh. Once he grabbed his gun, the Mopol turned and opened fire on the hoodlum, killing him instantly. He then took cover and called for back-up from the Gwarimpa police station.

"In the minutes it took to make the call, the two other assassins attempting to gain entrance to the main house fired two shots at Ibrahim, one grazed a finger on his left hand and the second penetrated his thigh.

"They then retreated towards the gate, taking the corpse of their fallen colleague but leaving the pistol, tentatively identified as belonging to a class normally issued to the Nigerian armed forces. They were heard driving away with a roar immediately afterwards, a pointer to a fifth hoodlum who must have kept the engine of the run-away car running.