

Bloody Eid-el Maulud in Jos as 12 Are Killed

It was indeed another bloody day for residents of Jos, Plateau State, at the *Eid-el Maulud* celebration as 12 persons, including a riot policeman around whom the killings revolved, lost their lives in cruel and untoward circumstances in the Terminus area of the city.

Panic, tension and stampede, all enveloped the city centre, as cars collided headlong, smashing windshields and rending bumpers asunder in desperate moves by motorists to escape from being caught in the madness that began at the *Abuja Market* in the area.

It all began when the policeman, who was on duty but went to purchase meat from an *Hausa butcher in the market*, was allegedly slaughtered by the butcher.

The meat seller reportedly turned his knife and killed the unsuspecting policeman, who was simply identified as Mr. John, by tearing open his abdomen.

As if well planned, another butcher beside them, also an *Hausa*, went after his own customer, a young lady, standing before him, and also killed her with his knife. And before long, the entire market turned into a pandemonium as the people used knives freely on each other.

And before the arrival of soldiers, five people were already

From Seriki Adinoyi in Jos

dead, while several others were seriously injured.

This provoked angry *Christian youths* to pounce on a commercial motorcycle operator, believed to be an *Hausa*, in the *terminus area*, who was also killed before he could escape.

While *Muslim youths*, who were reciting the *Quran* at the Central Mosque that had earlier been restrained from their usual yearly procession, got wind of

the crisis, they immediately made to launch further offensive on the Christians, who were equally battle ready.

But for the prompt arrival of the Commander of the Military Special Task Force, Brig. Gen. Hassan Umaru, who was also observing prayers at the mosque, more casualties would have been recorded. He quickly deployed troops in the area to contain the youths.

The crisis quickly escalated to *Gada-Biu* area of the city

where four other persons were burnt beyond recognition.

Three corpses were also found lying near Bingham University Teaching Hospital.

Confirming the incident, the state Police Commissioner, Alhaji Abdulrahman Akano, said four people had been arrested in connection with the pandemonium. He however denied that any other person was killed apart from the policeman, whom he said is of the Bomb Disposal Unit.

Ogun PDP Factions Hold Rallies over 'Mandate'

- Olurin: My ticket's legal
- I'll regain my mandate, says Isiaka

From Sheriff Balogun

in Abeokuta

embrace peace by ensuring that the party was victorious in the coming election.

He pledged that if elected, his administration would concentrate on the development of the state from the hinterland.

He also told his supporters at the reception/cum rally organised for him after he got the flag to run as governor, that he was on a "rescue mission", recalling with nostalgia how the four paramount obas and the incumbent Governor Gbenga Daniel, had been prompting him to run as governor.

According to him "Our brothers can no longer afford to be sleeping under the bridge in Lagos. We are on a rescue mission. The strategy we are going to adopt is bottom-top approach. We are starting development from the grassroots. Our roads, water and electricity will be back again so that we can get jobs for our teeming mass-

In the rally held in Ilaro, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) certified governorship candidate of the party, Chief Adetunji Olurin, told his supporters that his mandate was legal. He also said that the mandate had come to stay.

However, his challenger and candidate of the faction loyal to Governor Gbenga Daniel, Mr. Gboyega Isiaka, also told members of the party at a rally in Abeokuta, that his mandate would be regained through legal battle.

He said: "We will use every legal means to fight to redeem our mandate. I want to assure you that justice, equity and even God are on our side. Justice may be delayed, it will surely not be denied."

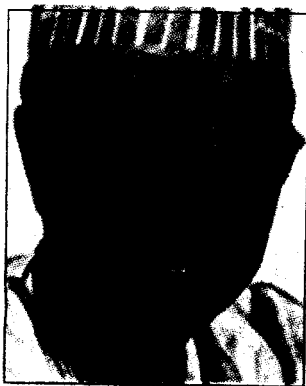
Olurin, who was accompanied by his running mate, Mr. Tunde Oladunjoye, urged party members throughout the state to forget about the past and

es."

However, the story was different in Abeokuta as criticisms were poured on the former President Olusegun Obasanjo for not allowing the candidature of the faction loyal to Daniel in the forthcoming elections.

But Isiaka, the governorship candidate of the Daniel faction, told the crowd that the mandate given to him on January 9 when the gubernatorial primaries were conducted, still remained intact. He also said: "We will use every legal means to fight to redeem our mandate. I want to assure you that justice, equity and even God are on our side. Justice may be delayed, it will surely not be denied."

The party supporters, in their thousands, later trooped to major streets in the Abeokuta metropolis, chanting solidarity songs. They also carried placards with various inscriptions such as "Justice, enough of kangaroo injunctions", "GNI is our candidate", and "OGD is our leader" among others.



•Plateau State Gov Jonah Jang