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NIGERIAN Tribune

News From Nigeria

Gunmen kill Benue TUC chairman - 2 days after labour rally

Soji-Eze Fagbemi, Abuja - 27.07.2009

Two days after the organised labour rally in Makurdi, Benue State, the chairman of the Trade Union Congress (TUC), Tony Udu, was assassinated by unidentified gunmen.

In a statement by the TUC national president, Comrade Peter Esele and General Secretary, John Kolawole on Sunday, the congress expressed great concern over the high rate of assassination and murder of hapless Nigerians occasioned by porous state of security.

The congress said the latest of the assassination was the murder of Udu, in his house, on Friday. It described the late Udu as "a great and committed trade unionist," adding that "Comrade Udu, who was cut short at his prime was a strong member of the Association of Senior Civil Servants of Nigeria (ASCN), a strong affiliate of the congress and was a leading unionist in Benue State trade union movement who led workers in the state to protest unfavourable state policies.

"That the assassination came on a day the Federal Government announced the appointment of Ogbonnaya Onovo as the Inspector General of Police (IGP) shows the enormous task before the new police helmsman," the congress said..

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