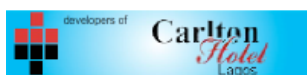


Tuesday, July 20, 2010

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## 1 killed, 6 injured as anti-Jonathan rally turns sour

Written by Ishola Micheal  
Wednesday, 14 July 2010

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A rally organised by the Bauchi State chapter of the Arewa Youth Development Foundation (AYDF) to protest against the call that President Goodluck Jonathan should contest for presidency in 2011, on Tuesday, turned sour, as one person has been reported dead, while six others were injured.

Those injured were currently receiving treatment at the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of the Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Teaching Hospital, Bauchi.

The AYDF had vowed to ensure selfish politicians, especially those from the North, who were bent on seeing that President Jonathan contested the 2011 presidential election, were not successful.

Investigations revealed that one Aliyu Haruna, 26, who was among the protesters, met his death when the bus that was conveying them somersaulted at Tinna Chemist junction, Bauchi, following alleged shooting of its tyres by policemen who were trying to disperse the crowd.

The allegation was, therefore, denied by the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Mohammed Barau.

The AYDF had arranged for a demonstration at the IBB Square, before moving to the Government House, where it intended to present a letter of protest, but the plans were thwarted by the detachment of armed mobile policemen, who prevented the protesters from entering the venue of the pro-zoning campaign.

But the PPRO, in a telephone conversation, said "yes, they applied for permission to hold a rally but on two occasions, it was postponed due to other national engagements and, few days ago, they notified the police of the rally and asked for police protection which was given to them.

"That is all I know. So, it is not true that police shot at anybody and it did not arrest anybody in connection with the rally."

The state chairman of the group, Mr Aliyu Ladan, said they decided to organise the rally since the pro-Jonathan rally staged in the state on June 30 did not reflect the interest of the people of the state.

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