



•Azeez Adedoyin with battered head, a victim of the clash between the PDP and ANPP supporters in Abeokuta yesterday



•Car of ANPP chairman in Abeokuta South vandalized

ensure adequate protection of lives and property in Ogun State, the Federal Government has directed the beefing up of security in and around the state capital with the deployment of soldiers to augment the efforts of the Nigerian Police with immediate effect.

"This measure has become necessary because of the activities of some hoodlums and miscreants

operating under the aegis of a politician. On the morning of Saturday, March 10, 2007, the politician and his armed followers unleashed a reign of terror on the people of Abeokuta and in the process destroyed property while some residents sustained various degrees of injuries. Members of the public are hereby enjoined not to panic at the sight of the soldiers who have been fully briefed to protect lives and property. This is part of the confidence building initiative of the Federal Government to ensure that peace reigns before, during and after the general elections."

Speaking with newsmen on the deployment, Samuel said that the presidential order was a pre-emptive one to ensure the protection of lives and property, adding that it had nothing to do with yesterday's clash

# Violence in Abeokuta

- 3 feared dead
- 20 injured as PDP, ANPP supporters clash
- Soldiers deployed

**KOLADE LAREWAJU**  
Abeokuta

**ABEOKUTA,** President Olusegun Obasanjo's hometown, was, yesterday, turned into a theatre of war following a bloody clash between supporters of the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) and those of the ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) which left no fewer than three people, including a pregnant woman dead, and 20 persons badly injured.

The violent clash was the climax of several other clashes between the two political parties which started on Friday. Already, the Federal Government has deployed soldiers in the state to maintain law and order while the gubernatorial candidate of the ANPP, Senator Ibikunle Amosun has been arrested and was still being detained as at press time.

The deployment of soldiers in the state was announced by the state commissioner for information and strategy, Mr. Kayode Samuel, who said that it was a pre-emptive measure. Among those injured in yesterday's clash which occurred at the Car Wash area of the state capital were the national vice chairman of the ANPP, Chief Derin Adebisi and the elder brother of Amosun, Alhaji Abidoye Amosun, who were badly matched.

The clash threw the area into pandemonium with every body running helter skelter while peace was not restored to the area until about two hours later. Trouble was said to have started on Friday during the Abeokuta South Local Government campaign of Amosun when his supporters and those of the PDP clashed at Ijaye leaving about 23 vehicles vandalized and about 10 persons from both sides badly injured. The Abeokuta South Secretariat of the PDP was also vandalized during the clash.

Amosun, who said that it was members of the PDP that attacked his supporters, said no fewer than 10 of his campaign vehicles and those of the senatorial candidate of the party, Prince

Lanre Tejuoso, were vandalized and at least three of his supporters were matched. But the PDP, through its chairman, Elder Joju Fadairo insisted that Senator Amosun was the aggressor and showed newsmen the vandalized party secretariat and about 12 cars belonging to the party and its members vandalized in front of the secretariat.

Violence, however, erupted yesterday when Amosun, after addressing a press conference at his Ibara GRA residence was invited to the police station by a team of heavily armed policemen led by a deputy commissioner, Mr. Dipo Ayeni. Amosun then decided to trek to the police station along with his supporters who were singing solidarity songs through the major streets of the ancient city, including Sapon, the commercial nerve centre, with the policemen driving behind him.

**A**t the Car Wash area of Adatan, trouble was said to have broken out with even policemen running helter skelter while Adebisi, Amosun and several others were matched in the bloody clash. Amosun himself was spirited away before another detachment of policemen came in and took him to the Police Headquarters, Eleweran.

Amosun was driven into the police headquarters at about 12.35pm and was taken to the office of the commissioner of police, Mr. Joseph Apapa, alongside Senator Iyabode Anisulowo, and was still being held as at the time of reporting. There has, however, been no statement from the police. Earlier, Amosun at the press conference, said that his campaign team was consistently being attacked by "sponsored thugs of the state controlled PDP government".

Flanked by Anisulowo and other party leaders, the ANPP candidate called on the state commissioner of police to investigate the various incidents and also called Obasanjo's attention to the attacks. But the state PDP chairman, Elder Joju Fadairo, at a hotly contested press

ambition.

Fadairo said that the ANPP had relentlessly attacked members of PDP and even innocent citizens whenever he was on his tours, adding that, only last week, Amosun's campaign team turned violent and attacked people in Ososa, Omu, Idowa, Ijebu-Ode and Imeko Afon. "Anyone found with any insignia or symbol of identification with the PDP was brutalized and matched by the hoodlums who were coordinated by known henchmen of Amosun," he alleged, pointing out: "The PDP wishes to use this opportunity to condemn in its entirety this orchestrated

attempts to turn our peaceful state into a theatre of violence due to inordinate ambition. We call for restraint on the part of our members and wish to warn the opposition that no one has exclusive monopoly of violence".

Governor Olugbenga Daniel, in his reaction to the violence, said: "It is very unfortunate. The report came in last night. I cannot just understand that without any provocation you just planned rampage on the people. It is so sad that I just hope that the police would do their work." He then urged the people not to take the law into their hands.

**Deployment of soldiers:** The state commissioner for information and strategy, in a release announcing the deployment of the soldiers, said that it was aimed at beefing up security in and around the state capital. The three paragraph statement read: "In order to

## Yar'Adua arrives, says 'my health story exaggerated'

**JIDE AJANI,**  
**KENNETH EHIGIATOR**  
& **GBENGA ARIYIBI**

"I THANK all our leaders; I thank Mr. President; I thank all our supporters, the entire members of the PDP, all Nigerians who stood by me, who showed concern and good wishes. By the way, the news on my health I found was highly exaggerated."

Those were the words of Alhaji Umaru Musa Yar'Adua, presidential flag-bearer of the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, to Nigerians upon his arrival from Germany, yesterday.

At exactly 5:05p.m, the jet, which flew in Yar'Adua from Germany, landed at the International Wing of the Murtala Muhammed International Airport. It was a Bombardier Challenger 604 executive jet with registration number OEIKP and piloted by.

Captain Bolzern, from Canada.

The jet came to a final halt at the Presidential Wing of the airport at exactly 5:17 p.m. As reporters and party supporters surged towards the aircraft to catch a first glimpse of Yar'Adua, security operatives and policemen on duty had a very hectic time controlling the crowd.

Resplendent in deep green kaftan and beaming with smiles, the PDP presidential candidate emerged from the plane, first with his palms clasped and raised high and then waving at the crowd. He then came down. Signs that the presidential jet had landed emerged when Chief Olabode George, deputy national chairman, of the party, led some party leaders out of the presidential lounge at 5:06 p.m.

### ••Holds rally in Ekiti

Once George came out, he got a call from one of the party governors in the North Central Zone of the country.

The governor had wanted to find out the exact time Yar'Adua would touch down. But the governor was expecting Yar'Adua in Abuja and not Lagos. George, in the company of some six state governors and other party leaders then, filed out to the tarmac of the presidential wing. As they were discussing, the Bombardier Challenger 604 Executive jet emerged.

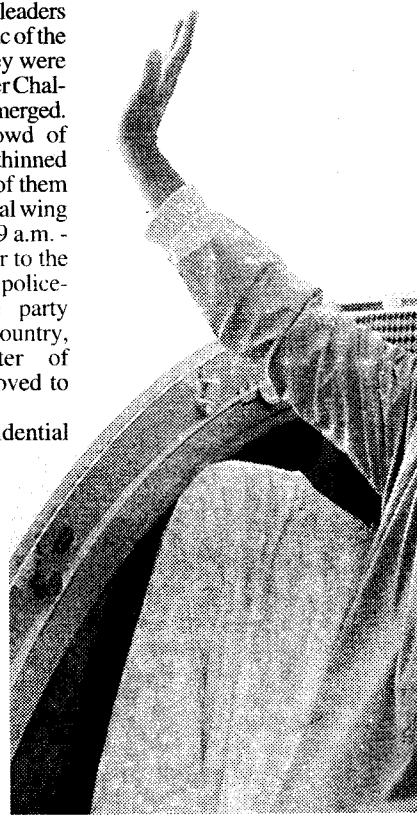
By this time, the crowd of supporters which had thinned owing to fatigue - some of them had arrived the presidential wing of the airport as early as 9 a.m. - attempted to move closer to the jet but were stopped by policemen. George and the party leaders from across the country, including the daughter of Yar'Adua, thereafter moved to the entrance of the jet.

Two of the presidential candidate's aides who were aboard the aircraft with him were the first to emerge. One of them beckoned at George, who made a dash for the jet's stairs.

He had barely spent 15 seconds inside the aircraft when he appeared again and beckoned at the party chieftains on the tarmac - Bukola Saraki, Olagunsoye Oyinlola, Danjuma Goje, Femi Otedola, Alhaji Aliko Dangote, Musiliu Obanikoro and Alao

Akala - who also entered the aircraft. And while there were other politicians on ground attempting to go into the aircraft,

*Continues on page 8*



•Yar'Adua returns. The PDP presidential candidate returned to the country yesterday, after a mission. Alhaji Umaru Musa Yar'Adua acknowledging cheering supporters.