3 feared dead in attack on ex-Gov Ladoja's house

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	tack the residence of the	attached to him. The attack reportedly left three people	nor was not

reportedly left three people Senator Rashidi Ladoja, were dead.

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TBADAN — ATTEMPTS, evesterday, by some sus-

3 feared dead in attack on ex-Gov Ladoja's house

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50 stormed the building at Ondo Street, Bodija, Ibadan,

nittees' delay

ous and I think it is a clear indication that we should get more organised and the way to that is to put our Committees in place immediately so that things that are supposed to go to Committees will go to Committees immediately," he said.
Senator Ayogu Eze (PDP, Enu-

gu North) also speaking on the development said: "We are only trying to see that the right thing is done. People will go back, sleep over the notices and research into them and come up better prepared to make contributions tomorrow (today).'

it was gathered that the attackers would have succeeded in setting the residence of the ex-governor ablaze if they had not met stiff resistance from the security agents.

The area was smeared with blood. Also, the wall adjacent the ex-governor's house was riddled with bullets.

One of the residents of the area who preferred anonymity said the hoodlums stormed the area around 1 a.m. yesterday, shooting sporadically into the air, adding that when he woke up, he saw a dead body at Osuntokun Junction. The corpse was there till 9 a.m.

When they arrived Ondo Street where the former governor resides, the attackers were quoted as saying: "You landlords on this street, you don't have anything to be afraid of. We are not armed robbers. We are looking for Ladoja. Our mission is to burn down the house of Ladoia, so don't interfere and don't panic. You are all safe. It is Ladoja that we want. Those of you in Ladoja's house, we will kill all of you.

According to the source, the hoodlums parked their vehicles on the road and walked to Ladoja's house, shooting as they proceeded.

But, the security men attached to the ex-governor, having heard of the mission of the attackers, resisted the onslaught. They reportedly returned fire to keep the invaders at bay. When the miscreants could not withstand the firepower of the security men, they fled.

A resident added that some other plain-clothes security operatives attached to the ex-governor chased the hoodlums who reportedly escaped with injuries. The shooting lasted about 45

In the ensuing crossfire, three of the hoodlums were reportedly killed while some sustained various degrees of injury. But none of the mobile policemen was injured in the gun duel.

Contacted, the state Deputy Commissioner of Police, Mr. Olatunji Caulcrick, confirmed that there was evidence that some people actually visited the exgovernor's residence but was skeptical if it was an attack.

He said: "There was an incident. A group of unidentified persons came around 1 a.m. shooting and shouting. The police attached to the ex-governor challenged them and they replied and the people scampered away."

On the blood stains on the road, the police boss said it was not certain the blood emanated from injuries. "I am convinced it is not likely to be blood stains," he said.

He told journalists that it looked as if some people splashed some contents on the road, adding that if it was blood stain from injuries, there would be continuous flow. It looked as if it was a premeditated plan by the people. Before we can actually confirm that it is a blood stain, there has to be some sci-

entific test to prove that." Worried by the development and insecurity of lives and property in the state, Chairman, Action Congress Caretaker Committee, Chief Jacob Adetoro, said a reasonable person would feel very sad. "I can't understand what people are looking for. The election is over, people can't still sleep peacefully in their residence. If somebody of Ladoja's calibre can be attacked, it means nobody is safe in Oyo State.

"I think President Umaru Yar' Adua should look into what is happening in Oyo State. Just look at the police station behind us, I think the DPO in that station should have mobilised some men to help the men on ground. Not that after an event has taken place somebody would come and be asking what happened.

"We had thought that with the transfer of the state Police Commissioner. Mr. Jonathan Johnson, there would be an end to this act of lawlessness and thuggery, but this attack, unprovoked as it was, came to me as a surprise and we wanted the po-lice authorities to investigate it,"

On what could have led to the attack, Chief Adetoro said it definitely had some political under-tone. "The attackers could not have been the neighbours of the ex-governor with whom the exgovernor has been living for many years. It has political undertone. We know the position of Ladoja," he said.

At the time of filing this report, the residence of the ex-governor had been fortified with more security operatives to prevent a fresh attack.

Ali, PDP chairman, blasts Obasanjo

Continues from Page 1

sation policy of the immediate past administration, especially as it affected national security. "This is an age when they sell off everything including the family silver. I don't encourage all these things. I don't see why my Federal Government Colleges should be sold. I don't also see why certain things that are of national security should be sold.

"But we have not gone round to selling everything yet. So, maybe at one point you must designate certain things for the purpose of na-

tional security or otherwise.
"Agriculture is a very difficult problem for us. All those who have gone into farming, very few of them survived, I have not survived, I went into farming, but I am not a good example of a farmer.

"When the villagers where I was farming decided to steal my farm crops and after investigation, I carried them to the police. The local chief called

me and said, "come my son.

Do you know the problem we are having?" And I said "which problem? You people are rogues in this place." He said: "look, we (poor villages) are in a better position to grow crops for you book people to come and buy," he said.

The PDP Chairman who kicked against moves to remove subsidy from the agricultural sector said: "We actually need to protect our farmers. All the talks of withdrawing subsidy from farming, I am not for it. We must continue to subsidise our farming.

The European Union (EU) subsidises its farmers up till tomorrow. In order to prevent a glut in local market of any particular crop, they begged farmers to leave their land fallow and pay them millions of Euro and the United States of America (USA) government does the same thing.

"They paid millions of Euro to farmers just to leave the land fallow so that it won't discourage farmers because if you grow too much and it is not bought, next year you won't be bothered to grow and one day famine will hit

that place. "So, what does the government do? They will come and tell the man: you have so many hectares, please just do half. We will pay you for the other for not growing anything to protect the market and the

'And yet they come here to preach to us that we should remove subsidy from agriculture. This is the area the economists should be able to come in and educate the government. We need subsidy in the agricultural sector of the economy.

'We must continue to subsidise farmers if we are going to survive. Because our population is exploding and no government has control over that one. Even if the government wants to control it, the churches and the Muslims will not allow you to control anything like that, because they will tell you that you have no right over it," he said.

Dr. Ali charged members of the institute to monitor with seriousness the activities of government in the country.

Navy declares 3 Ratings missing after militants' attack

AGOS - THE Nigeri-Lan Navy yesterday said three of their men were missing after Niger Delta militants attacked them while on patrol on the Okrika channels in Riv-

"The militants attacked our men who were on patrol. Delta has cost Nigeria a quar-captivity ranging from a few Monday night. Three of our let of its total output of 2.6. days to a few weeks.

men are missing," Navy spokesman, Obiora Medani

Medani said the militants were in 12 speedboats.

An upsurge in violence and hostage-takings by militant groups in the oil-rich Niger million barrels per day in the past 18 months.

Since the beginning of last year almost 200 expatriates most of them with links to the oil industry - have been kidnapped. Most were released unharmed after periods in captivity ranging from a few