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## Gunmen Kidnap Former NYSC DG In Akwa Ibom

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> State govt blamed for kidnaps in Ekiti

Gunmen numbering about 15 made their way into Qua Iboe Church in Iwok, Nsit Atai Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State yesterday and kidnapped a former Director-General of National Youth Service Corps (NYSC), Major-General Edet Akpan, yesterday.

The gunmen, who were said to have entered the church unnoticed, were also said to have brought out their guns and shot several times into the roof of the church.

#### LEADERSHIP

learnt that the gunmen shot a soldier and a police orderly guarding the former NYSC DG before going for their target.

A member of the congregation, who was said to have been hit by a stray bullet, died instantly.

An eyewitness told our correspondent that several members of the congregation sustained various injuries as a result of the confusion that ensued when the gunmen started shooting.

The State Police Commissioner, Mr. Walter Rugbere, who confirmed the incident, said three persons were killed while six were injured.

Rugbere stated that the suspected criminals got to the church premises at about 12.30 p.m. while the church service was going on.

He said, "The suspects shot sporadically while they were inside the church, killed three persons before they finally got the man (Akpan) and took him away."

He disclosed that one suspect had already been apprehended as a result of the incident at Nsit Atai.

According to him, the police would leave no stone unturned in ensuring that the ex-NYSC boss was freed and those behind his abduction arrested and brought to book.

Meanwhile, some opposition politicians in Ekiti State have blamed the state government for the recent spate of kidnaps in the state.

An gubernatorial candidate in the state, Dr Kayode Fayemi, alleged yesterday that the Peoples Democratic Party-led government in the state should be held responsible for the recent kidnapping incidents at Ilawe-Ekiti, which led to the death of a first class monarch, the Attah of Ayede Ekiti, and a related one in Ilasa-Ekiti, leading to the death of the Acting Provost of the College of Education, Ikere Ekiti. He said the situation was bound to continue to exist under the present government in the state.

Making the statement in a press release, the Director of Commiunication for the Dr Kayode Fayemi Campaign Organisation in the state, Mr. Yemi Adaramodu, said the unfortunate incidents called for concern of all Ekiti indigenes.

According to him, "Since 2003 when the PDP chased away political integrity to mount an illegal throne in Ekiti, the state has become a den of robbers, assassins and kidnappers. It has been one-week-one-trouble under the interlopers who introduced the culture of violence to Ekiti political lexicon.

"It is so unfortunate for Ekiti to lose two of its prominent citizens in a single day in the hands of hoodlums who are bent on creating a state of anarchy in Ekiti State. It is apposite that the preys of these satanic predators ranged from hapless masses, bank managers to police officers.

"We had been treated, during the reign of the PDP interlopers, to the killing of special anti-robbery squad officers, carting away of bank managers, bestial rape, violent robberies and dastardly cult activities.

"All these, we believe, are evil designs to make Ekiti a no-go area for her sons and daughters who are beacons of hope

for the traumatised state. These strings of attacks, kidnappings and robberies are keep-off signs to men and women of goodwill, so as to give enough space for the PDP goons who are currently unleashing an unprecedented economic and socio-political desolation on the poor state."

Adaramodu added, "It is now clear that the present impostors, having not been chosen by the people, cannot be bothered about the security of lives and property of the same people they claim to govern, as it is bewildering that such gang of hoodlums could traverse almost the length and breadth of Ekiti, hawking violence without apprehension."

The director recalled that in the recent past, citizens and political leaders who didn't share the "come-and-eat" philosophy of the state PDP had been visited with assassination bids and threats to lives.

He recalled further the reported incident of an Action Congress lawyer at the Ekiti Elections Petitions Tribunal who allegedly luckily escaped acid attack, while journalists and aides of Dr. Kayode Fayemi were still seeking divine routes to escape the mortal threats of "Sola Ojo, Agboola Oni and one notorious cultist a. k.a. Marshal, all PDP thugs".

Adaramodu appealed to security agents to prevent a breakdown of law and order in Ekiti State by swinging into action to unravel those behind the recent kidnap in Ilawe and Ilasa Ekiti.

He said, "We also urge the security agents to follow a lead of information provided on those who recently threatened the lives of members of the opposition and journalists.

"We commiserate with the Ayede-Ekiti royal family, the entire people of Ayede and the state Council of Traditional Rulers over the untimely death of the monarch. We equally commiserate with the family of the late Acting Provost, Dr. Gabriel Olowoyo.

"We pray God to grant the families the fortitude to bear the loss and repose of their souls as we pray for divine intervention in Ekiti to put a stop to man-made calamities."

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