

PRESS STATEMENT

THE POWERFUL SPIRIT SURROUNDING PREGNANT WOMEN ON DELIVERY DAY SHALL DELIVER APPROPRIATE JUDGEMENT TO THE ASSASSINS OF OTUNBA DIPO DINA

I was enveloped with shock when my husband broke down and told me “won ti pa Dipo Dina” Dina has been assassinated. Our spirits were down and we were both sad.

I played back how he, my sister in-law who was well liked by Otunba Dina, my husband and myself, in company of our members, sat down to eat in a restaurant in Adigbe, Abeokuta. I played back how he, Alhaji Gbenga Kaka, Senator Ibikunle Amosun and my husband came together to hold a press conference after a violently aborted debate of the gubernatorial candidates in Ogun State in 2007. As the only wife of the gubernatorial candidate in that crowd that day, where shooting rent the air and I saw blood on the floor, I felt sorry for Ogun State and was proud of these candidates for standing firm against oppression. After playing back all these scenes, I was demoralized and became dejected that Otunba Dipo Dina is no more alive.

As a woman, I thought I should urge women to rise up to this occasion. We cannot carry pregnancy for nine months, labor hard to deliver the child, send them to school and then allow them to be killed senselessly at the time we were supposed to be enjoying the fruit of our labor. As a wife, we cannot allow our husband to be mercilessly murdered because of his good desire for his state and country. We must rise and protest and we must speak out. Enough is enough! The culture of intolerance and insecurity must be fought with all our might. The first lady of Ogun State must also join us in this protest as a mother, because we shall all reap what we sow.

To my name sake, Mrs. Adenike Dina, and the children, only God can heal this wound. May the Lord therefore give you and other family members the fortitude to bear the irreparable loss! May the killers and their sponsors not rest in peace! Here I kneel and pray that the powerful spirit surrounding pregnant women on delivery day shall deliver appropriate judgment to the assassins and sponsors of the assassination of Otunba Dipo Dina.

Signed

Arabirin Adenike Banjo

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