

# 3 die as PDP, DPP clash in Sokoto

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**T**hree people were feared dead in the political violence which erupted in Sokoto yesterday as a result of clashes between PDP and DPP supporters.

All the three were slain in between the Sultan Abubakar International Airport and the Sultan Maccido Institute of Quranic Studies, where thugs of both parties confronted one another with cutlasses, machetes and other dangerous weapons.

Although the state police commissioner has denied any killings, eye witnesses at the Birnin Kebbi Road between the state Polytechnic and Shehu Shagari College of Education, Sokoto confirmed three dead bodies in different locations.

Our reporter who was at the Birnin Kebbi Road along the overhead bridge at about 1:15 pm witnessed the killing of two people when supporters of PDP and DPP clashed under the bridge where police had to use tear gas to disperse the crowd.

The conflict was as a result of the arrival of former state governor, Alhaji Attahiru Dalhara



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A burnt car along Maiduguri Road at Gawon Nama Area of Sokoto metropolis yesterday.

# NEWS

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Bafarawa who the police boss in the state, Alhaji Shehu Usman Bui claimed was warned not to organize any procession for security reasons but that he defied the order.

It took the DPP presidential candidate in the 2007 elections Bafarawa more than two hours to cross the overhead bridge after several attempts. In spite of the presence of heavy security personnel comprising men of the state security service, mobile police and conventional police, there was a fierce battle along the Shehu Shagari College of Education to the state Polytechnic, where more than five vehicles were burnt and the occupants abandoning the vehicles for safety with some escaping with machete wounds.

Our reporters who went round counted more than 15 vehicles destroyed and burnt while a handful of people who had machete cuts were rushed to the hospital.

Meanwhile, former governor of Sokoto state Alhaji Attahiru Bafarawa has condemned the violence that greeted his arrival into the state, blaming the state police command for its inadequacies.

Bafarawa, who was flanked by the DPP national Chairman, Chief Jeremiah

Useni, condemned this while speaking with journalists at his residence yesterday. He expressed disappointment with the security situation in the state, adding that this happened even after his party, the DPP had written to the police informing them about such plans being allegedly hatched.

The DPP Presidential candidate lamented that Sokoto that was hitherto known for its peaceful disposition has turned violent. "Politics was carried out in the state peacefully without harassing or molesting anybody. Today this has changed.

Things are no longer done in a peaceful manner". He called on politicians and the entire citizenry in the state to eschew violence and ensure peaceful co-existence in the overall interest of the state.

Reacting to Bafarawa's allegation that the police was to blame for the violence, police boss in Sokoto Alhaji Shehu Usman Bui told newsmen that Bafarawa was communicated to on the police command's stand that there should be no any political procession in any part of the state but he, Bafarawa defied the order and organized a political rally.

The commissioner stated that "based on security report received on the implication of

the said reception procession, the state government dimmed it necessary not to allow the procession to take place and as such banned public procession within the state".

According to him, the decision was taken because some miscreants have started going armed in public causing injury to people and also destroying property and it was the duty of the police to maintain law and order.

Reacting to the claim that the PDP provoked the opposition DPP, the state scribe of the PDP, Alhaji Aminu Bello Sokoto described what happened as unfortunate "because the police did not issue permit to the DPP for that procession but they defied the order and organized a rally, the result of which you were all witnesses."

According to him over 10 PDP vehicles have been destroyed and burnt and "we cannot stand and watch our property being destroyed so we have to defend ourselves". He said the PDP was law abiding "but when you provoke a man he has to defend himself and our people defended themselves today".

Meanwhile, at about 6:30 pm yesterday normalcy had returned to the streets of Sokoto as people were going about their normal