

3 killed as Yarima, Shinkafi's supporters clash

From Sadeeq Aliyu, Gusau

At least three persons were killed yesterday in clashes between supporters of the ANPP and those of the PDP in Gusau, Zamfara State,

while many other people were injured and scores of vehicles were burnt.

Witnesses said the violence erupted when supporters of the ruling People's Democratic Party

blocked access into the airstrip in the state capital, where Senator Ahmed Sani Yarima of the rival All Nigeria People's Party was to hold a rally.

The witnesses said when

Yarima and his supporters gathered to move to the airstrip for the rally, thugs believed to be supporters of Governor Mahmuda Shinkafi, carrying assorted local weapons such as cutlasses, swords

and sticks, blocked the way.

Clashes started when a PDP thug allegedly confronted the ANPP crowd brandishing a cutlass along Sokoto Road, few metres

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away from the Government House.

The PDP thug was instantly macheted to death, witnesses said. This enraged his colleagues, who roared to avenge this killing, and in the resulting bloodshed, two more people were killed.

Several witnesses said the corpses of the victims were conveyed by a police pick up van to unknown destinations.

Daily Trust learnt that many people were injured and at least six vehicles were burnt.

The clash between the two arch rival political parties in the state has been brewing long before now, owing to inflammatory statements earlier made by party leaders in the state.

Police public relations officer ASP Sanusi Amiru could not be reached for comments yesterday, as whenever his number was called someone would answer the phone and say "this is not the PPRO" and end the call.

Leaders of PDP who are competent to speak on the issue could not be reached, as they switched up their cell phones as at the time of filing in this report.

But ANPP's director of publicity Alhaji Ibrahim Birnin Magaji described the incident as unfortunate. He said, "We notified the police in writing when we saw PDP thugs preparing for the trouble two days ago but it is like no serious action was taken."

In spite of the killings, and the heavy rainfall which lasted throughout the crisis, Yarima and his supporters, including ANPP governorship aspirant Abdulaziz Yari held the rally, where they vowed to continue the struggle until they take over the state in the elections.

Meanwhile, residents of Gusau town are now living in fear as many businesses were closed, and vehicles went off the streets while people went indoors.