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Two killed in election violence in Taraba

Tuesday, 19 April 2011 01:06

Terkula Igidi, Jalingo



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Two persons have been reported killed in violence relating to the just concluded presidential election in Taraba State. Last Saturday, youths in Jalingo protested alleged manipulation of election results but were dispersed when police threw teargas canisters at them. However, the protest spilled over to neighbouring towns of Bali, Gassol and Mutum-Biyu, where fighting between party supporters left two persons dead.

Confirming the incident in a telephone interview with our correspondent, the Acting Commissioner of Police for Taraba State, Alhaji Musa Aliyu, said supporters of political parties fought themselves and two people were killed. But he added, "since we did not arrest them, we cannot identify which political parties were involved." Meanwhile, there is an uneasy calm in the capital town of Jalingo as youths yesterday took to the streets celebrating a coup rumour.

As the jubilant youths burnt tires and sped around town on bikes honking horns, Igbo traders hurriedly locked their shops and scampered to their homes.

But the police commissioner dismissed the youths as hoodlums who wanted to use the opportunity of the election to commit crime and assured that the police were ready to deal with any hoodlum or group that wants to disrupt the peace of the state. At the time of filing this report, the army had taken over most streets in Jalingo.

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