


## Violence mars PDP LG congresses in Benue

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Last Saturday's Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) local government congresses in Benue State was marred by pockets of violence that characterized the exercise across the 23 local government areas where groups insisted on controlling the party structures. 

Our correspondent gathered that in Gwer East Local Government, some party thugs beat up members in the area before setting the residence of the caretaker committee chairman of the local government on fire for allegedly conniving to impose an unpopular candidate.

Violence broke out when the results of the local government congress showed that the camp of a serving Commissioner for Commerce and Industries, Mr. Alex Adum had taken the lead. The result was outrightly rejected by another faction led by member Representing Gwer/Gwer-West in the Federal House of Representatives, Mrs. Christy Alaaga who alleged that the local government council chairman skewed the process to favour a section of party elders in the area.

In Adikpo, the headquarters of Kwande local government, the story was not different as the former member, House of Representatives for Kwande/Ushongo constituency, Hon Terwase Orbunde was stabbed by an unidentified thug for questioning the disparity in the total number of delegates that voted and the result which showed that 400 delegates voted instead of the accredited 305.

The situation report in Vandeikya was however peaceful as the political leaders there embarked on a consensus procedure where the officers of the party and delegates were elected unopposed just as was done in Gboko local Government Area while the report in Benue south senatorial district remained scanty at the time of filing this report.