

Police DCO Killed, Audu Disqualified In Kogi

FROM
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THE state elections which did not commence early in Lokoja and surrounding local councils, was largely peaceful until the process was dealt a cruel blow with the murder of a Divisional Crime Officer attached to Idah Local Government, Mike Abimaje.

Also, elections had been suspended in some other areas of the state due to violence.

Abimaje, who was said to have attempted to rescue some of his colleagues, led by a Divisional Police Officer (DPO) that were abducted by armed political thugs in Ega (Waterside) of the Local Government, ran into an ambush and was shot point blank on the chest.

When *The Guardian* visited the Idah General

Hospital where his corpse was deposited, the Area Commander, Theophilous Uzor confirmed the incidence and vowed that the Police would not rest until the perpetrators, numbering about 40 and in black and red T-shirts, were brought under the full weight of the law.

In Lokoja, the Kogi State Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) Resident Electoral Commissioner, Mallam Abubakar Zaki, confirmed that as far as the commission was concerned, former governor, Alhaji Abubakar Audu, was disqualified.

Many were, however, caught unawares by the act. Even at the state headquarters, Audu's name was displayed alongside other governorship candidates, "until early this morning (3 a.m. Saturday) when the boxes were opened and we got the roll out where his name had been deleted", an INEC source said.