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Six Feared Dead In Delta Election Violence

SUNDAY, 10 APRIL 2011 00:00 FROM HENDRIX OLIOMOGBE, ASABA
NEWS - NATIONAL

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THE rescheduled National Assembly election was held yesterday in Delta State in an atmosphere of violence and confusion.

In [Ughelli](#) town and Orogun, Ughelli North in the Central Senatorial district and Oghume, Ndokwa [West Council](#) in the North Senatorial district, there were reports of violence that resulted in the death of six persons.

In [Ughelli](#), about four persons were reportedly shot dead by the police when some hoodlums attempted to snatch ballot boxes.

Similarly, [two persons](#) at Orogun sustained serious injuries after they were shot by the police.

It was gathered that the men who were heavily armed engaged the police in a shootout while attempting to snatch ballot boxes.

At Oghume, [two died in a scuffle](#) shortly after voting ended. The victims were said to have engaged in a fight after one of them snatched a [ballot box](#) and was challenged by the other.

In Asaba, the state capital, the headquarters of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) was a scene of confusion as angry party supporters besieged the commission's office over the content of a Hilux van at the premises, which turned out to be result sheets for the House of Representatives election.

Following a directive by the Resident Election Commissioner, Dr. Gabriel Adah, that the content be opened, six bundles of Form EC 8A(I) were discovered to the consternation of all, including security agents and reporters.

The Public Relations Officer, Mr. Chinedu Onyeji, explained that the forms were received through Benin airport late last night and were meant for the postponed House of Representatives elections in Aniocha/Oshimili, Patani/Bomadi and Ethiope federal constituencies.

Most voters were disenfranchised in yesterday's elections in the state, as their photographs could not match names in the register at Uzoigwe Primary School Polling Centre in Asaba and other neighbouring communities visited.

In Idumuje Ubokwo, Aniocha North Local Council, voting started late, as the stamp brought by INEC staff was the one used for rerun election. Hence, voters rejected it until another was brought at around 2 pm.

At some of the polling centres in Isoko South Council, accreditation commenced as scheduled while voting started at about 12pm.

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Voting was hitch free in spite of the intimidating presence of military personnel deployed to the area to check the activities of hoodlums.

Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Charles Muka, confirmed the deaths at Oghume and the shootings at Orogun.

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