

# Four killed in Lafia as youths protest Al-Makura's arrest, detention

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**TENSION** enveloped Lafia, Nasarawa State capital and its environs when youths went berserk on Wednesday, destroying posters and billboards of President Goodluck Jonathan and those of Nasarawa State governor, Aliyu Akwe Doma, setting them ablaze for the third day running.

In a bid to disperse the rampaging youths, by a combined team of anti-riot policemen and soldiers, four people, including

three children and a 38-year-old man, were hit by bullets.

Two of the children (names withheld) were reported dead.

Those that were shot were as at Wednesday receiving treatment for the gunshot wounds at a private hospital in Lafia as all government hospitals have been on strike for the last two months, even as other health workers recently joined the strike last Monday.

Meanwhile, the state government was yet to comment on the incident, even though Doma came into Lafia shortly after the

security team had quelled the protest.

Calls and text messages to the Commissioner for Information and Orientation, Mammari Alakaye; Secretary to the State Government (SSG), Timothy Anjide, and Director, Media and Publicity to the Governor, Ibrahim Addra, for comments were neither picked nor replied.

The youths were protesting the arrest of the gubernatorial candidate of Congress for Progressive Change (CPC), Umaru Tanko Al-Makura, last Tuesday on the orders of the Inspector

General of Police (IGP), to ascertain his complicity in the defacing of the campaign posters and billboards of Jonathan and Doma.

The act was allegedly perpetrated on the night preceding Jonathan's visit to Lafia for the flag off of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) presidential campaign for North Central zone.

The youths, set up bonfire, barricading the roads leading into Lafia town from Makurdi, Benue State and Abuja, the federal capital.