

# Polls: 14 Killed, 10 Injured In Kogi, Katsina, Anambra, Ondo, Oyo

By **Our Correspondents** - March 11, 2019

## Chukwujekwu Ilozue, Gbenga Abegunrin, Ojo Oyewamide

**Awka / Ibadan / Akure** – At least 14 people were killed, 10 injured and three missing during Saturday's governorship and state House of Assembly elections in parts of the country.

The elections in Kogi East claimed three lives while four others have been hospitalised across the senatorial district, according to eyewitness reports.

However, Commissioner of Police in the state, Hakeem Busari, said that the command recorded two deaths in the exercise, but acknowledged that there were widespread allegations of thugs in police uniforms attacking people.

Eyewitnesses told newsmen that after a peaceful and orderly take-off of the exercise in the morning, violence erupted simultaneously across the district during counting of ballots and collation with ballot box snatching.

In Olamaboro Local Government Area, a community leader of Inele, Abuh Simon, was shot in the chest by gun-trotting political thugs, who had earlier snatched ballot boxes from a nearby community of Ugojo-Ubalu.

Simon was said to have been shot by the thugs along with two others, James Matthew and John Agada.

Matthew and Agada survived, but Simon was, however, unlucky as he was hit directly on the chest which led to his death.

The two survivors, who sustained gunshot injuries, were said to have been rushed immediately to the hospital.

An eyewitness, ThankGod Onu-Moses, National Chairman, Inele District Development Union (IDDU), who narrated the incident to newsmen, said, "Our place, Olamaboro Ward 5, Inele Unit 002 is the collation centre for the ward.

"We were there when some people ran down to tell David Onoja that PDP was leading in Unit 004 Ugojo-Ubalu. He immediately left with some thugs in a Toyota Hilux Van straight to the polling unit."

Onu-Moses said Onoja and the thugs got there, shot into the air, violently snatched the ballot boxes from Ugojo-Ubalu unit 004 and came back to Inele unit 002.

He further alleged that the deceased community leader, who along with Matthew and Agada, approached Onoja to inquire about the boxes when he (Onoja) thinking they were out to challenge him, signaled the thugs to open fire on them.

Also at Atuma in Ankpa Local Government Area, two persons were allegedly killed while another two, including a woman, sustained various degrees of injuries in the milieu that ensued as a result of forceful hijack of ballot boxes.

Thugs in police uniforms were also said to have invaded Atuma village shooting indiscriminately and in the process, killed one person and injured two others including a woman; and took the ballot boxes away.

The police commissioner, who promised to get to the root of the matter, called for calm.

He said: "We have already told political actors to embrace peace.

"You do not have to kill your brothers because you are looking for position. We will, however, parade arrested suspects at the end of election."

### **Gunmen Kill Policeman, NSCDC Officer, Abduct Three INEC Ad Hoc Staff In Katsina**

Katsina State Police Command has confirmed the killing of a policeman and abduction of three INEC ad hoc staff during the governorship and state Assembly election in the state.

The police also announced the killing of a civil defence officer in separate attack while on election duty.

The Command's Public Relations Officer, SP Gambo Isa, in two separate statements made available to newsmen on Saturday in Katsina, said the policeman, Cpl Mannir Usman, was killed while on election patrol at Gobirawa Falale, Danmusa Local Government Area of the state.

The PPRO said that gunmen ambushed the police team and shot Usman who was driving the patrol vehicle.

He added that the gunmen also abducted three INEC ad hoc staff on election duty in the same incident.

The police further said that a civil defence officer was shot on the chest at Santar Amadi village polling unit in Kankara Local Government Area, in another attack on Saturday.

Isa said the gunmen attacked the village, shooting sporadically and hitting the officer on the chest where he died instantly.

### **Two Killed, Six Wounded, 47 Arrested In Anambra Assembly Election**

Though the House of Assembly election which took place on Saturday in Anambra State was adjudged peaceful, two deaths were recorded and six persons sustained gunshot wounds during the exercise.

Police report of the election signed by the Police Public Relations officer, Haruna Mohammed, a Superintendent of Police, stated that rival cult fight between Black Axe and Vikings Confraternity in Obosi, Idemili North Local Council claimed two lives during the exercise.

There were also isolated shooting incidents in Ekwulobia in Aguata Local Council Area where one security guard shot his colleague in a scuffle at a polling unit and wounded five voters.

There was also a shooting incident at Agulu Township polling unit and three suspects were arrested with a locally made pistol with four rounds of ammunition.

In other areas, a female presiding officer, Meniri Njideka, was abducted at Afor Market Square unit, Mbaukwu, in Awka South Local Council but had been rescued.

Besides these, thuggery was recorded at Nri in Anaocha Local Council Area, Umouji ward and Ogidi, both in Idemili Local Council Areas and Nteje where the police arrested those involved.

In all, a total number of 47 suspects were arrested for various offences, ranging from disruption of elections, malicious damage, thuggery, assault, and unlawful possession of firearms.

Items recovered from the suspects included vehicles, motorcycles, dry weeds, and cash amounting to N173, 420.

### **Corps Member, INEC Official, Four Others Die In Ondo**

Ibrahim Okanlawon, a National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) member and ad-hoc staff of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) reportedly died in a boat mishap in Ondo State on Saturday.

Also, an INEC official was said to have lost his life in the mishap while seven other persons were seriously injured.

It was learnt that the incident occurred at Agadagba-Obon in Ese-Odo Local Government Area of the state.

Sources said the victims were returning from election duty in Arogbo community when the speed boat capsized at the bank of Agadagba-Obon.

They said the marine security operatives at the bank of the river tried to rescue the victims but Okanlawon and the INEC staff were not lucky.

According to them, two other corps members who sustained injuries were receiving treatment at the hospital.

It was gathered that the corps member who lost his life in the mishap failed to use the life jacket given to him and all efforts to save him failed.

Femi Joseph, the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) in the state, confirmed the boat mishap.

Joseph described the incident as unfortunate and said the corpse of the corps member, who hailed from Osun State, had been deposited at the morgue.

Agboola Ajayi, the state deputy governor, sympathised with the family of Okanlawon, describing his death as a sad development.

Ajayi said the nation had lost one of its productive young men while serving his fatherland.

In a related development, four persons were reportedly killed in Ore, Odigbo Local Government Area of the state during the election.

The victims were said to have been among those protesting the alleged electoral frauds in the area.

It was learnt that security operatives from the town were invited and they started shooting sporadically.

Four of the youths were said to have been shot dead by the policemen.

Joseph also confirmed the incident but said only one person died during the fracas in Ore.

### **Violence Escalates In Ibadan**

The violence experienced during Saturday's governorship and state Assembly elections in some parts of Oyo State spiralled to other parts of Ibadan, the state capital, on Sunday.

Saturday's poll was marred by violence in Ibadan and other parts of Oyo State, leading to the death of a member of the House of Representatives, Hon. Temitope Olatoye, and others.

Hon. Olatoye was reportedly shot in the face by suspected political thugs at Lalupon area of Lagelu Local Government Area of Oyo State, and later died at the University College Hospital (UCH) where he was rushed for medical treatment.

However, there were reprisal attacks on Sunday as hoodlums suspected to be supporters of the late federal lawmakers fired gunshots sporadically at Iwo Road, Alakia, Olodo, Gbagi and Ojojo areas of Ibadan.

*Daily Independent* gathered that the rampaging hoodlums attacked the residence of a former chieftain of the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW), Mukaila Lamidi (a.k.a Auxiliary) and reportedly shot at his wife.

Also, there were violent clashes among members of the state chapter of NURTW in some motor parks in Ibadan.

Consequently, residents of the affected areas were gripped by fear and ran for safety.

However, in order to put the situation under control, combat-ready soldiers took positions at strategic locations within the city.

### **Police In Delta Confirm Four Missing In Boat Mishap**

The police in Delta have confirmed four persons missing in a boat mishap which occurred in the Benin River, Warri North Local Government Area of the state.

The acting Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) in the state, ASP Chucks Oriseweze, confirmed the incident to newsmen on Sunday in Warri.

Oriseweze said, "A boat loaded with 22 persons which left Ebrohimi community and headed for Koko capsized around Ureju community at about 01:20 hours.

"The occupants of the boat were three policemen and 19 community people.

"Eighteen persons, including the three policemen have been rescued, while search is still on for the remaining four missing persons.

"Two of the rescued victims have been taken to the hospital for medical care.

"I must clarify that there were no Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) staff or NYSC members on board just as there were no election materials in the boat.

"Investigation into the incident is already on," Oriseweze said.

Also, the Resident Electoral Commissioner (REC) in Delta, Cyril Omorogbe, refuted reports that INEC staff were involved in the boat mishap.

### **Ajimobi Expresses Sadness Over Violence, Killings**

Governor Abiola Ajimobi of Oyo of State has expressed sadness over pockets of violence and killings that characterised Saturday's election in the state.

This is contained in a statement signed and made available to newsmen in Ibadan by Bolaji Tunji, the Special Adviser to the Governor on Communication and Strategy.

Ajimobi, especially condemned acts of violence that followed Saturday's elections, one of which led to the death of a member of the House of Representatives, Temitope Olatoye (ADP-Akinyele/Lagelu Constituency) and some others.

"I am saddened by the turn of events, which is antithetical to the pervading peace in the state. The violence and killings are highly depressing and regrettable.

"The desperation and do-or-die that attended the elections were uncalled for since the candidates in the governorship and assembly elections were in the race to serve the people and not themselves," he said.

He, however, assured that perpetrators would be brought to justice, irrespective of their political affiliation and status.

The governor warned that the state government would not allow any individual or group to truncate the had-fought peace and security that the state had enjoyed in the last eight years.

"It is heartrending that Olatoye and others had to die because of election. Nobody's ambition should be worth the blood or life of any citizen.

"I am, therefore, appalled that some unscrupulous politicians and their followers have turned this contest into a do-or-die affair, which is alien to democratic norms in saner climes."