

Two die as party supporters clash in Kogi

TWO persons have been confirmed dead in Lokoja during a bloody clash between party supporters on Monday at Ochadamu, Ofu Local Government Area of Kogi State.

The state Police Command's spokesman, DSP William Aya, who confirmed the development in Lokoja yesterday, said a former councillor in the local government, Mrs. Salome Abu, and one Mr. Awalu

Zekeri, died in the crisis.

He said violence erupted on Monday due to a misunderstanding between Zekeri of the All Progressives Congress (APC) and Mr. Goodwin Simeon, a member of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

"In the process, Simeon stabbed Zekeri with a knife on his lap and he died on his way to the hospital," Aya said.

As a result, angry youths in Ochadamu mobilised to the

house of Simeon Abuh, who is an uncle to the suspect and set it ablaze, thereby burning 60-year-old Mrs. Salome Abuh to death.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that until her death, Abuh was the woman leader of PDP in Ochadamu.

Aya further said three other houses were also burnt during the mayhem.

In its reaction, the PDP condemned the killing of its

woman leader by jubilant supporters of APC, calling on the police to arrest the perpetrators.

Spokesman for the Wada/Aro Campaign Organisation, Mr. Farouk Adejoh-Audu, while reacting to the incident, called on men of good conscience to prevail on the police to halt attacks on members of the PDP in the state.

The state government, in its reaction, condemned the vio-

lent clashes in Ochadamu, warning that anyone caught taking the law into his hands would be punished, regardless of party affiliations.

"We feel disturbed by reports of violence in Ochadamu, which has led to the loss of lives and property in the community," Mr. Kingsley Fanwo, Director-General, Media and Publicity to the Governor, said.

Fanwo, who also doubles as the spokesman for the Bello/

Onoja Campaign Organisation, noted that government would not shield any member, who broke the law of the land.

He said: "Gov. Yahaya has directed security agencies to quell the rising tension and ensure that perpetrators of murder and arson are brought to book."

"The governor is elected to protect all Kogi people regardless of their ethnic or political beliefs."

INEC to issue Lyon certificate of return

PDP demands justice for slain women leader