

Violence, protests in some parts

By our correspondents

THERE were pockets of violence and protests in some parts of the country yesterday as results of last Saturday's governorship and States of Assembly elections were being announced by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

For example, in Akure, Ondo State, angry protesters yesterday literally placed the Resident Electoral Commissioner in the state, Mr. Josiah

Uwazuruonye and other staff of the commission under house arrest.

The protesters, numbering hundreds and made up of youth and half-naked women, insisted on holding on until the commission announced the true governorship results of the elections.

The *Deji* of Akure, Oba Adepoju Adesina, has relocated to the INEC office while the *Owa* of Idanre, Oba

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Frederick Aroloye, joined him later in a bid to prevent possible breakdown of law and order.

Our correspondent reports that the youth and women barricaded all roads leading to INEC office and Government House as they chanted war songs.

They also carried a mock coffin of the incumbent Governor, Dr. Olusegun Agagu.

Uwazuruonye told newsmen that contrary to the rumour making the rounds, he did not receive 26 million Naira bribe from the governor as alleged by the protesters.

In Taraba State, no election results for both the governorship and House of Assembly were released, even as opposition political parties are accusing INEC and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) of conniving to change the results in favour of PDP.

The Saturday elections were characterized by shortage of election materials, a situation that led to demonstration that resulted in the death of three persons.

The clashes that took place in Donga and Karim Lamido, where the three persons were shot dead over disagreement shortly before the commencement of the elections.

In Kaduna, the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) gubernatorial candidate, Alhaji Sani Sha'aban, rejected the results announced by INEC declaring Alhaji Namadi Sambo of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) winner, just as candidates of AC and PDP in Borno State, Barrister Mohammed Kumalia and Alhaji Kashim Imam respectively left INEC headquarters in the state even before the announcement of the results in protest.

Reports from Nasarawa said there were protests in some parts of Nasarawa-Eggon, the home town of the ANPP gubernatorial candidate, who is accusing INEC of conniving with PDP to rig the election in favour of the ruling PDP.

Seven Lagos governorship candidates have called for the cancellation of Saturday's elections, alleging massive irregularities.

At a joint press conference in Lagos yesterday, Chief Femi Pedro of the Labour Party and six others said the exercise was unacceptable, adding that they would not have anything to do with its outcome.

Three political parties in Cross River State have threatened to withdraw their candidates in the forthcoming National Assembly polls.

The governorship candidates of AC, ANPP and PPA made the disclosure at a media briefing on Saturday night in Calabar.

The affected political parties leadership also directed all

their agents to withdraw from what they called "false collation going on."

Action Congress in Jigawa State has disassociated itself from Saturday's governorship and State Assembly elections in the state, just as it called on the electorate to reject the results.

Addressing newsmen in Dutse yesterday, the party's Chairman for the state, Ambassador Daudu Sulaiman, alleged that already the winner had emerged even before the elections were over.

Two governorship candidates of DPP and ANPP, Alhaji Abubakar Malam and Alhaji Faruk Bunza respectively, have vowed to reject the election results because of alleged irregularities that characterized the polls in the state.

They addressed a joint press conference in Birnin Kebbi yesterday, where they disassociated themselves from the results announced by the electoral body in the state.

Reports from Port Harcourt have it that the AC had said it would not accept the results, describing "the whole exercise as a charade."

In a statement, Dr. Eze Eze, the Media Officer of the Prince Tonye Princewill campaign organization, said the party had rejected the election in its entirety for its irregularities.

The coalition of political parties in Katsina State has rejected Saturday's governorship and State Assembly elections for alleged massive rigging and intimidation of innocent voters.

Addressing a news conference in Kaduna yesterday, the spokesman of the coalition, Dr. Usman Bugaje, who is the AC gubernatorial candidate, said the coalition of political parties had also rejected the outcome and therefore called for fresh election in the state.

The AC, ANPP and Accord Party (AP) in Kwara State yesterday condemned last Saturday's elections in the state, saying they were a rape on the country's democracy.

The AC's state Chairman, Mr. Sunday Fagbemi, while briefing newsmen yesterday alleged that the elections were rigged by the ruling PDP, adding that no fewer than four of their supporters were killed by the law enforcement agents during the voting exercise in various parts of the state.

In Osogbo, Osun State and Enugu, Enugu State, there were also protests against last Saturday's elections for alleged irregularities. In Osogbo, youth marched the major streets of the state capital in protest against the re-election of Governor Olagunsoye Oyinlola.

And in Enugu, various party candidates, who stormed the INEC office in the state, alleged manipulation of the elections by the electoral body and the ruling PDP.