

Community protests alleged police killing of kinsmen

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THE Tiv community of Aliade in Gwer Local Government area of Benue State has protested the alleged killing of their kinsmen by some mobile policemen on Saturday.

The police were said to have been drafted to the area following the upturning of the Peoples Democratic Party House of Assembly result for Gwer East constituency.

It was gathered that the Independent National Electoral Commission had earlier announced Dr. Donald Ayargwer as winner, but a few days after, his name was re-

placed with that of Mr. Augustine Achado.

But in Jos on Monday, the community accused the police and the Benue State Government of masterminding the carnage in Aliade.

→ The community said that about 10 people had been killed and many houses burnt.

This, the community said, followed a peaceful protest by its youths.

Dr. Tor Iorapuu, a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Theatre Arts and Mass Communication, who spoke on behalf of the community during a press briefing on Monday, described what

happened at Aliade the penultimate Saturday as a dangerous dimension to the political situation in the state.

According to him, it was rather unfortunate that in a seemingly democratic culture, people should be flagrantly disenfranchised, with their voices brutally suppressed through the instrument of the state.

He said that the youths were on a peaceful protest, having felt cheated through attempts to replace their elected representative.

He said they were rather confronted by the might of the police and the state government.