

Naval officer detained, five killed in C'River

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THE naval officer identified as Mr. S. Adah, who fired and killed a 14-year-old girl along the Mayne Avenue axis of Calabar on Saturday evening has been arrested and detained at the Navy Barracks in the state capital.

The officer was said to have attempted to shoot at the car tyre of some suspected thugs who refused to stop when the car was flagged down.

The officer was among the combined team of military and paramilitary men that were deployed in the area to secure the Calabar South Independent National Electoral Commission office.

It was not immediately clear how the naval authorities

would handle the matter, but the Commanding Officer, NNS Victory, Captain Ekundayo Idowu, who confirmed his arrest to our correspondent on the telephone, said the matter was being investigated.

Meanwhile, the chairman of Yala Local Government, Mr John Eyikwaje, one of the casualties during Saturday's gubernatorial election in Cross River State, is now in police protective custody.

It was learnt that the chairman, a member of the Peoples Democratic Party, was rescued by the police when it became clear that his attackers were after his life.

It was not certain what offence he committed that must have provoked the youths.

Our correspondent learnt

that he was attacked and terribly rough handled by the aggrieved youths in the area where violence reigned during the election.

One person was said to have been killed during the incident.

Apart from Yala, there were reports of violence in other parts of the northern part of the state, including Obudu, Obanliku and Ogoja.

In each of the local governments, there were reports of the death of one person.

But the person that died in Obanliku was identified to be a riot policeman who was said to have been killed by armed political thugs.

The police commissioner, Cross River State Command, Mr Danlami Yar'Adua, however, confirmed the death of

one person in Odukpani Local Government.

He also told our correspondent over the telephone on Sunday that he was yet to get reports from the northern Cross River on the casualty situation.

But the opposition political parties had condemned INEC for allegedly assisting the PDP in massive rigging of the election in most parts of the state.

They also threatened to withdraw from next Saturday's election if INEC announced what they called a fraudulent election.

They further alleged that as it was in Bekwarra where voting materials were not sighted the electoral body deliberately kept result sheets to itself and released them later to PDP agents.