

Doctor, 24 others detained for alleged murder, electoral violence

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THE men of the Imo State Police Command have arrested a medical doctor (name withheld) for allegedly shooting and killing one Kachukwu Ugabwu at Agbaja in Nwagele Local Government Area, during the controversial Saturday elections.

The Commissioner of Police, in charge of the command, Alhaji Abubakar Audu, also said on Tuesday during a press briefing in Owerri that his men had arrested 24 men suspected to have played various roles in the violence that rocked parts of the state during the elections.

Abubakar said that the police were also on the trail of some people identified to have played some role in the violence in the state.

According to him, the murder suspect, who was being trailed by detectives, surrendered himself for arrest and was taken into custody shortly after the elections.

The police boss said that the embattled doctor was found to be incoherent during interrogation, and had been accordingly handed over to the Assistant Commissioner of Police in charge of the Criminal Investigation Department for further investigation.

Abubakar said that the other 24 suspects, being detained at the CID of the police headquarters, would be taken to court for prosecution at the conclusion of investigations into their cases.

The commissioner, however, exonerated the immediate past Chairman of the Aboh Mbaize Local Govern-

ment Area, Dr. Best Njoku, who was alleged to have shot five people on Saturday.

Abubakar said that the command had not received any such report on the alleged shooting at Aboh Mbaize, saying that the police would have acted promptly to apprehend the culprit if there was a report of such an incident.

The Resident Electoral Commissioner of the Independent National Electoral Commission in the state, Mr. Austin Okojie, had said dur-

ing a press conference on the election on Sunday that the immediate past council boss, who contested the House of Assembly election, allegedly shot five people.

But Njoku, who defected from the PDP to contest the House election under the All Nigeria Peoples Party, in his reactions on Tuesday, challenged Okojie to mention the identities of the people allegedly shot, and killed, and the mortuary where their bodies were being kept.

I'm not a security risk -Chris Uba

A member of the Board of Trustees of the ruling Peoples Democratic Party, Chief Chris Uba, has faulted the reasons given by the police authorities for his arrest on the eve of last Saturday's elections.

Addressing journalists in Abuja on Tuesday, Uba explained that at no time did he constitute a "security risk" to Anambra State or to anywhere in Nigeria, as claimed by the Inspector-General of Police, Mr. Sunday Ehindero.

Uba said he was merely invited for discussion by the police boss, and not arrested, as the media reported at the weekend.

He said the meeting with the police boss was cordial, adding that he told the I.G that he was in his house in Enugu, and not in Anambra, when a contingent of policemen came to invite him last Friday.

He also said that the police boss was satisfied with

his explanation that he had no plans to scuttle the just concluded poll in Anambra State.

Rather, he said his brother, Andy Uba, was on the offensive against him.

On the basis of this, Uba said Ehindero then advised on the need for him and his elder brother, Andy, to resolve their political differences amicably.

Ehindero, according to the politician, also said the police meant no harm by the routine invitation. Rather, he said the police wanted a peaceful settlement of the intractable political altercation between him and his brother, who emerged the PDP governor-elect for Anambra State.

Uba also accused his brother, Andy, for being responsible for his invitation by the police.

He said his brother's fear could have stemmed from the fact his presence could jeopardise his chance at the poll.