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Ebonyi: One killed as PDP, ANPP supporters clash

By Ozioma Ubabukoh

Sunday, 3 Apr 2011

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One person was confirmed dead on Saturday in Ebonyi State as supporters of the Peoples Democratic Party and All Nigeria Peoples Party clashed shortly before the postponement of the National Assembly election was announced.

The incident, which occurred at Amagu Ikwo Local Government Area, also left another PDP supporter critically wounded and admitted at the Intensive Care Unit of the Federal Medical Centre.

The Public Relations Officer of the state Command of the Nigeria Police, Mr. John Eluu, told SUNDAY PUNCH that the corpse of the deceased had been deposited at the FMC mortuary.

Eluu said, "We have yet to unravel the identity of the victims. The best we got is that they are members of the PDP."

However, an eyewitness, Mr. Uchenna Nwakwegu, said, "While voters trooped out to the polling booths, some youths, who are members of the PDP, were seen loitering and warning that no member of the ANPP should get close to the booth.

"Immediately they sighted supporters of the ANPP, they started shooting with sophisticated weapons and those, who had come to vote, fled. The ANPP supporters responded promptly and shot two PDP members, while the others took to their heels."

Meanwhile, voter apathy was witnessed in Inyaba North Development Centre of Ishielu Local Government Area of the state after supporters of the PDP and ANPP clashed in the area on Friday night.

A resident of Ishielu, Mr. Francis Itumo, told our correspondent that members of the PDP allegedly had attempted to take away some ANPP members when fight broke out.

Worried by the sophistication of the ammunition allegedly used in the gun battle, which reportedly started about 10pm and ended around midnight, Itumo said that residents of the area fled from the polling centres on the election day.

He said, "It took the intervention of about 50 soldiers to save the situation from escalating. Thus, the people of the area refused to come out today (Saturday) to vote. They are still scared over yesterday's (Friday) incident."

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