

Bayelsa Govt House photographer, PDP ward chair shot dead

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Armed men in military uniform, on Saturday, killed a Government House photographer, Mr Reginald Dei, and the Ward Chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party in the Southern Ijaw Local Government Area of Bayelsa State, Mr Seidougha Taribi, at Oweikorogha.

According to an eyewitness, the two were killed in their houses while waiting for the results of the presidential and National Assembly elections.

They were said to be relaxing at their homes and waiting for the votes in their ward to be counted.

The assailants were said to have moved to the houses of the victims to shoot them to death.

Reacting to the development, the spokesperson for the Joint Task Force, Ibrahim Abdulahi, said none of his soldiers was involved in any such incident.

He said soldiers attached to the outfit were nowhere near where the killings took place.

The state Chairman of the PDP, Chief Moses Cleopas, said in a statement on Saturday that the death of Dei and Seidougha had brought the number of those killed allegedly by APC thugs backed by soldiers to three.

Despite the large turnout of voters for the presidential and National Assembly elections, the failure of card readers to authenticate the thumbprints of eligible voters and violence in some places characterised the polls in Bayelsa State.

In Yenagoa, there was heavy military presence as checkpoints were mounted by stern-looking soldiers deployed to ensure uninterrupted movement of election materials.

The armed soldiers also took control of the security of major roads in the state, but they did not go near the polling units; only operatives of the Nigeria Police and the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps were seen at the polling units.

There was calm in most places visited except for the failure of the card readers, late arrival of voting materials and few skirmishes in some part the state.

In places where the card readers malfunctioned, many of the voters had to be manually accredited as a quick alternative to what would have raised concerns.

In Southern Ijaw, Nembe and Kolokuma/Opokuma local government areas, violence incidents were recorded.

The former President, Goodluck Jonathan, and his wife, Patience, both voted around 9am in their polling unit at Otuoke, Ogbia Local Government Area of the state.

The former President, while speaking with journalists, expressed satisfaction with the exercise and called all candidates to accept the outcome of the polls and congratulate the winners.

The state governor, Seriake Dickson, who voted alongside his wife at the Ererewari Polling Unit 5 in Toru Orua, Sagbama Local Government Area, accused security agencies of colluding with the APC chieftains and thugs to unleash mayhem on members of the PDP.

Dickson accused a former governor of the state, Timipre Sylva, and other chieftains of the APC of leading the attacks, and queried why security agents were being partial in carrying out the presidential order to deal decisively with those who commit infractions during the elections.

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