

...on Tuesday. Photo: Olatunji Obasa

Kogi PDP women leader burnt alive at home

Friday Olorok and
Gbenga Odogun

THE Women Leader of Wada Aro Campaign Council, Ochadamu ward, Mrs Acheju Abuh, was on Monday burnt alive in her home by suspected thugs.

She was also the Women Leader for the campaign organisation of the Peoples Democratic Party governorship candidate, Musa Wada, in the just-concluded governorship election in the state.

It was gathered that the thugs arrived at Abuh's home around 2pm and blocked every exit from the house.

They were said to have then sprayed the building with petrol, set it ablaze and fire continuously, as terrified villagers watched from afar.

A source said, "The blood-thirsty thugs waited, shooting and watching with relish while Mrs Abuh cried from inside the inferno until her voice died out.

"They left when the entire house had been burnt to ashes with Abuh in it."

The Kogi State Police Command confirmed the incident through its Public Relations Officer, William Aya.

Aya in a statement there was a misunderstanding between one Awolu Zekeri, a member of the All Progressives Congress and one Gwon Simeon, a member of the PDP, both of Ochadamu ward.

He said, "Gwon Simeon

stabbed Zekeri with a knife and he died on his way to hospital. As a result, angry youths in the area mobilised to the house of one Simeon Abuh of same address, who is an uncle to the suspect, set it ablaze, (and) thereby burnt one Salome Abuh, aged 60 years. Three other houses were equally

burnt.

"The corpse has been moved to the University Teaching Hospital Mortuary Anyigba for autopsy."

Meanwhile, the Transition Monitoring Group on Tuesday expressed concern over the killing of Abuh, saying it should be investigated.

TMG to write ICC, UN over Kogi violence

Friday Olorok and
Gbenga Odogun, Lokoja

A coalition of over 400 civil rights organisations under the aegis of Transition Monitoring Group on Tuesday said it would write the International Criminal Court in The Hague, The Netherlands and other organs of the United Nations to protest against the violence which characterised the elections in Kogi State.

While calling for a thorough investigation into the elections, the TMG stressed the need for an urgent national conversation and "a public hearing of a sort where Nigerians can voice their thoughts on the way forward on our elections in Nigeria."

The organisation said its overall preliminary assessment showed that several of the old challenges that featured in previous elections were extant in the governorship and senatorial rerun elections held in Bayelsa and Kogi states.

The chairperson of TMG, Dr Abiola Akiyode-Afolabi, in its statement on the November

16 governorship elections in Bayelsa and Kogi states, said the processes were marred by irregularities.

Akiyode-Afolabi said, "The situation during the elections in Kogi was worrisome, given the attendant frustration and fear unleashed on citizens who were faced with electoral intimidation, violence and killings as the case may be in the state.

"TMG will not hesitate to officially write the International Criminal Court and other relevant organs of the United Nations to weigh into the matter.

The lapses observed were not consistent with the dictates of the constitution and other extant laws that guide the conduct of elections in Nigeria. As such, we call for the immediate and outright cancellation of the elections in Kogi.

Meanwhile, a coalition of over 52 civil society groups accredited by INEC who observed the Kogi elections have said the elections were largely free, fair and credible in

The chairperson of the TMG, Dr Abiola Akiyode-Afolabi, in a statement, said, "We call on the Inspector General of Police to conduct an immediate investigation into the death of Salome Abuh, while all steps should be taken to bring to book the perpetrators of this dastardly act."

spite pocket of violence.

Comrade Peter Nwokolo of Citizens' Right and Leadership Awareness Initiative, who read the press statement on behalf of the leaders of the groups, made the assertion at a press conference in Lokoja on Tuesday.

"The observed anomalies reported during the elections, including the incidents of thuggery and associated violence, were comparatively too few and ineffective to justify the calls from some quarters for total cancellation of the entire elections.

"The INEC is advised to ignore such calls as misguided," he said.

Other representatives of the CSOs at the press conference who signed the press statement were Mr Obinna Nwaka of the Committee of Youth on Mobilization and Sensitisation, Mr Fidelis Nwoke of Africa for Millennium Change Initiative, Chinyere Manukwem of Centre for Positive Change and Civil Responsibility, among others.