

## Oyo LG polls: Girl, 18, killed in 'cult war'

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...Gov Ajimobi condoles, hails peaceful elections

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In an incident described by Oyo State government as cult war, an 18-year-old girl, simply identified as Kofoworola and who was said to have just finished her Senior School Certificate Examination, was, yesterday, shot dead.



Oyo state governor, Abiola Ajimobi

However, another account said the fatal shot was fired by men suspected to be of the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps when some thugs allegedly attempted to disrupt the local government elections held across the state.

The elections were going on when some hoodlums reportedly stormed a polling unit at Ekotedo area of Ibadan.

This, according to eye witnesses, prompted the Civil Defence men on ground to fire gunshots into the air to scare the attackers.

Tragically, the girl, who was said to be in a nearby shop to buy some things, was hit in the neck and she died instantly.

When Sunday Vanguard visited the scene, the girl was seen lying in a pool of blood with bullet hole in her neck.

Calls made to the Public Relations Officer of the Civil Defence in Oyo State, Mr Oluwole Olusegun, were not answered.

Another officer from the command, however, said he could not confirm if the bullet that hit the girl was fired by Civil Defence men.

The state government account, narrated in a statement by the Special Adviser, Communication and Strategy to Governor Abiola Ajimobi, Mr. Bolaji Tunji, said his principal was pained by the news, especially coming on the heels of the successful conduct of the state's first local government election in 11 years.

Tunji said the governor condoled with the family of the victim and vowed to ensure that the perpetrators were brought to justice.

Ajimobi said, "From the intelligence reports at my disposal in the perpetrators of this heinous and condemnable crime were recalcitrant cultists engaging in supremacy battle in Idi Oro and Ayeye areas of Ibadan who are yet to embrace our peace initiative".

The killing sparked protest by some youths at Oke-Ado area of Ibadan.

Meanwhile, after several failed attempts resulting from legal impediments, the elections were conducted into the chairmanship and councillorship seats in the 33 local governments and 35 LCDAs in the state.

Tight security was visible at strategic areas in Ibadan metropolis to forestall possible breakdown of law and order.

Governor Ajimobi, who arrived at Ward 9, Unit 20, located at Oluyole Grammar School, Oluyole, Ibadan, 20 at exactly 11:55 am, in a chat with newsmen after casting his vote along side his wife, Mrs. Florence Ajimobi, expressed optimism that the All Progressives Congress (APC) would emerge victorious in the polls.