

# Students mourn LASUED colleague killed in Lagos communal clash

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Some police officers at the scene. Photo: X@Abimbola Adebisi

By Uthman Salami

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The Lagos State chapter of the National Association of Nigerian Students, through its Joint Campus Council, has mourned the death of Akinyemi Omo Akin, a student of the Lagos State University of Education, who was killed during a violent clash between the Oto-Awori and Ijanikin communities.

In a statement made available to PUNCH Metro on Sunday, the student body criticised the position of the Lagos State Police Command, which denied responsibility for the student's death without presenting forensic evidence.

Findings by our correspondents, based on videos reviewed on Sunday, indicated that at least three other persons sustained varying degrees of injuries during the clash.

*PUNCH Metro* gathered that both communities share a long history of hostility. Although the immediate cause of Saturday's violence remains unclear, the unrest led to heavy traffic along the Lagos–Badagry Expressway after the Otto–Ijanikin axis was blocked by the warring groups, disrupting movement for motorists and other road users.

An earlier statement issued on Saturday by the command's spokesperson, Abimbola Adebisi, confirmed the death of Omo Akin but denied that the police were responsible.

However, eyewitnesses and community sources alleged that the deceased died from a stray bullet reportedly fired by police personnel.

In a separate statement, the Public Relations Officer of the NANS Joint Campus Council in Lagos, Ridwan Ajayi, described the incident as a tragic loss.

“This is a devastating loss not only to the LASUED community but also to the entire student population of Lagos State,” the statement read.

“We have carefully reviewed the statement released by the Lagos State Police Command denying that the deceased died from a stray bullet fired by police personnel.

“While we note the assurance of a full-scale investigation, we are concerned about the categorical denial without the public presentation of forensic evidence, the absence of ballistic clarification in the preliminary report, and the need for transparency regarding whether live rounds were discharged by officers at the scene.

“At a time like this, public confidence depends on openness, facts, and independent verification—not assumptions.

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“In the interest of justice and public trust, NANS Lagos hereby demands a transparent and independent forensic investigation, including ballistic analysis to determine the true source of the bullet, and a public briefing of findings once investigations are concluded.”

The student body also called for immediate engagement between security agencies and LASUED management to strengthen safety protocols around student residential areas. It further demanded adequate compensation and support for the family of the deceased pending the outcome of investigations, as well as the deployment of neutral and professional security personnel to prevent further escalation.

The association urged students of LASUED and youths across Lagos State to remain calm and law-abiding.

Meanwhile, the police spokesperson had earlier confirmed that investigations were ongoing to determine the circumstances surrounding the clash.

“During the clash between the two youth groups, one Akinyemi Omo Akin was suspected to have been shot and later died in the hospital,” the statement read.

“The Commissioner of Police has directed a full-scale investigation of the incident, to be led by the Deputy Commissioner of Police, State Criminal Investigation Department, Panty.

“Massive deployment of police personnel has been carried out to sustain peace and forestall any further breakdown of law and order.

“From preliminary investigation, it is incorrect and untrue that the deceased died from a stray bullet fired by the police.

“Before police intervention and arrival at the scene, there were reports from members of the public that both sides had mobilised cultists who were shooting and engaging in a gun duel. The victim may have been shot during the exchange.”

The command added that seven suspects from both communities had been arrested and were in police custody, with voluntary statements already obtained regarding their roles in the clash.

**| Uthman Salami**