

## **UNIUYO crisis: One student Killed, Over 45 Arrested**

Police in Akwa Ibom has confirmed the death of one student following Wednesday's protest by the students of University of Uyo.

The state police commissioner, Mr. Umar Gwadabe, told our correspondent yesterday in Uyo that 45 students had been arrested and one dead instead of three as speculated in some quarters.

According to him, if not for the immediate intervention of the police, students from Calabar and Bida, who infiltrated the ranks of the UNIUYO students', would have unleashed mayhem in Uyo the state capital.

He stated, "I did not see anything that the police have done wrong by trying to stop the situation escalating to town."

The Vice Chancellor/Deputy Vice Chancellor; Exams/Records; and Council Affairs offices, were completely razed by the protesting students who rose against what they call the exploitative tendency of the authority of the institution.

Hard disks were said to have been removed from computers in the Computer Maintenance Department, 12 vehicles vandalized, while Finance and Accounts, students accounts, and cash offices, were also vandalized and broken into.

Branch Chairman, Academy Staff Union of Universities, UNIUYO, Mr. Anyim Nwachukwu, confirmed the crisis on the campus but said what happened was beyond his comprehension.

He stated that the UNION members were to have meeting that day when the protest started.

He stated that from the information they received, the police used live bullets to hit the student.

"What we know for now is that there was crisis in the campus yesterday. But from the information we received, some lives were lost.

The students in turn razed school property. We are only going round now to assess the extent of damage.

"As we are going around, we discovered that some offices of my colleagues had been broken into and some things stolen. We can't still be definite about the kind of damage which had occurred yesterday.

"We were supposed to have a meeting yesterday, but for some of us who were around, we saw tear-gas canisters thrown inside the school premises.

Right now we can't really tell what happened because some of us were inside, though we managed to escape from campus," he said.