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Feb 1, 2009**Death is back in Ekiti State****Ekiti boils, one killed**By VICTOR OGUNJE, *Ado-Ekiti*

At least one person yesterday lost his life in Ikere-Ekiti, Ekiti State, as protesters ground the town for several hours over the protracted crisis surrounding the relocation of the state College of Education in the town to Ifaki-Ekiti, the country home of Governor Segun Oni.

The victim, Ola Alonge, 44, son of one of the high chiefs of the town, Chief Alonge Ologotun, allegedly fell to a stray bullet from the police, who were drafted to the scene to quell the raging tension.

The popular Oba's market, adjacent to the palace, was sacked, as market men and women also joined the protesters to show their grievances over the relocation of the college.

Ikere-Ekiti, the second largest town in the State, was turned to a ghost town, as the main road leading to Akure, the Ondo State capital, was closed to traffic.

The irate youths of the town made bonfires on key junctions and barricaded the roads with rickety vehicles, drums, iron rods, wooden objects and other missiles.

Vehicles coming from Ado-Ekiti, the state capital heading for Akure, Ise-Ekiti, Emure-Ekiti, Igbara-Odo and other towns, were turned back by the rioters, while some shops and business centres belonging to some indigenes of the town who supported the relocation, were vandalised.

The state government, had immediately after establishing TUNEDIK declared its intention to establish a new college of education, a decision which did not go down well with a section of the Ikere community who maintained that the college, having been on the Ikere soil, should not be taken elsewhere.

The protest, which started on a peaceful note, later snowballed into anarchy, the development that warranted the monarch of the town, *Oba* Samuel Adegoke Adegboye, Akayejo II, to be ferried out of palace to circumvent the wrath of the irate protesters.

The rioters never intended to invade the palace, but the death of Ola, one of the arrowheads of the protest, had necessitated the invasion. The state Commissioner of Police, Mr. Chris Ola, confirmed the death of Alonge and the arrest of, at least, 20 persons in connection with the riot.

All the chiefs of the town had also fled to unknown destinations with the palace besieged by the angry mob, who confronted the riot policemen drafted to the town to restore law and order as the remains of the victim wrapped in blue loin cloth, laid on a bench by the palace gate.

Oni had during his State of the State address in which he gave account of his stewardship two weeks ago, confirmed that college had moved to Ifaki with the take-off of The University of Education, Ikere-Ekiti (TUNEDIK).

The protesters, who carried placards of different inscriptions, demanded that the college, which had been in the town since 1978, be restored by the state government, claiming that the relocation of the college would deprive the town and its inhabitants of income and development.

According to the leaflets given to reporters by the organizers of the protest, the Concerned Citizens of Ikere-Ekiti, the group resisted the relocation of the college because "it has made the town more popular and has brought development to the community".

The group contended that the college has 14,000 students including preliminary students, 1,500 workers, 42 departments and 23 courses which are accredited by the relevant government agencies unlike TUNEDIK which has capacity for 500 students and only boasts of six courses and 200 staff.

"The College of Education, Ikere is the pride of the Ikere community; it has promoted the community far and wide because since its establishment in 1978, it has brought changes to the lives of citizens both at home and in the Diaspora.

"The relocation will make the Ikere community go back to their past era. The youths in the community will leave their community to search for greener pastures as the relocation will reduce the revenue accruing to our local government council due to low population.

"The school which has 46 fully-accredited departments and another affiliated faculty will promote the community both at home and abroad because the school had been in existence over thirty years ago and it will continue to grow and there is going to be stability in their programmes and purpose", the leaflet read in part:

Sola Ojo, one of the arrowheads of the protest, recounted the protest was peaceful despite the presence of a handful of policemen who, he claimed, sympathised with their cause but turned violent when a mobile policeman reportedly fired a shot which hit Ola in the chest.

The irate demonstrators shortly after bringing the Ola's corpse to the palace forced the gate which had been hitherto locked open and vandalised the palace and chanted war songs against the leaders of the community who they accused of a sell-out.

Anti-riot policemen later went from house to house in the palace area to fish out suspected arrowheads of the protest, many of who were dragged out and hurled into waiting police vehicles.


Reacting to the sordid scenario, the state government through the Secretary to the State Government (SSG), Chief Dare Bejide, described the incident as uncalled for and unfortunate.

Bejide, who spoke on the state-owned Broadcasting Service of Ekiti State (BSES), said the state government had taken a final decision on the college issue, noting that the college and The University of Education can not exist side-by-side.

Bejide, who expressed sadness with the development, maintained that the decision to relocate the college since the university was sited in the town was taken in consultation with the leaders of the Ikere community.

<http://www.champion-newspapers.com/s...s/article1.htm>

- **human is god among the gods, all unified as supreme BEING, thus, thou shall not seek, you're one. -denker**
- **gods have pleasure in my prosperity -denker**
- **you think you live and you do not you die -denker**
- **Humans tend to explain their failures by inventing imaginary scapegoats. -ithinkbetter**
- **true/real change/development can only take place alone from within....!-denker**
- **protection of the weak is the beginning of wisdom -Okoye**

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