

4 undergraduates feared dead

ODOGWU EMEKA ODOGWU, Awka

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Four students of Paul University, Awka, on Monday afternoon got crushed by a water tanker during the burial of their colleague, late Miss Uju Anwua. Uju was a second-year student in Accounting before meeting her death. She hailed from Isi-Akpu village, Nise, Awka South Local Government Area.

The victims were said to be Uchenna, Echezona, one known as Escape and others. Many would have fallen victim but for a mad rush away from the oncoming lorry. The name of the one that died on the spot could not be ascertained at press time.

The tanker was coming on top speed as the students were in a procession for their dead colleague along the road. All efforts to stop the lorry failed as the driver refused to listen to the students plea to reduce speed until it crashed into them.

A witness said one student died immediately while others rushed to the hospital were said to be in critical condition. But for the intervention of the police men on the highway along that axis the students nearly lynched the driver, one Pius from Enugu State. The students however set the lorry ablaze and drained all the water in the tanker.

Parents of the deceased and the victims as well as passersby could not answer questions as tears flowed freely at the scene of the accident. It took the intervention of the military and mobile police men as well as road safety and local vigilante to avoid mob action.

A student Uche Omeliora who narrated the incident to *Daily Champion* said the driver was mad as he could not adhere to simple rule every other road user adhered to as they were all dressed in black and black.