

Three killed in students' protest in Owerri

Written by Johnkennedy Uzoma, **Owerri** Thursday, 28 July 2011 05:28


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Three students of the Federal Polytechnic Nekede, **Owerri**, Imo State were yesterday allegedly **killed** while property worth millions of naira were destroyed during a student's demonstration. 

The dead **students** were said to have being shot dead at the peak of the **protest** in the campus by unidentified persons. Property affected during the **protest**, include the SUG secretariat and the school motor park which were burnt down. The **students** also destroyed traffic poles in the state capital. The **students**, who were in their thousands stormed the streets of **Owerri** and marched to the Government House and state's House of Assembly to **protest** over alleged increase in school fess by the school's management. They alleged that their school fees has been increased from N35,000 to N45,000 and that the acceptance fee was also increased from N10,000 to N15,000. 

Reacting, the Public Relations Officer of the institution, Nze Obina Okafor denied any increase in school fees, saying instead, the schools fees had been reduced to N25,000 per semester.

He said that the management was not even thinking of increasing the school fees as doing that would aggravate the suffering of the **students**.

He blamed the riot on the Student's Union Government election scheduled to hold day after tomorrow, accusing **students** who were disqualified of contesting the election of being behind the crisis.

Meanwhile, the institutions management has directed all **students** to proceed on a break with immediate effect to enable the management look into the issue at stake. They advised the **students** to comply with the order by vacating the campus before 11.00 am today.

When contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer of the state command, Mr. Linus Nwaiwu said he could not confirm the killing. He however said that his men had been deployed to the institution to ensure that the situation is curtailed.

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