

Two Students Killed, NANS President Arrested In Maiduguri

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Two students of Borno State tertiary institutions have been killed and several others critically injured by the police during a demonstration by the students and officials of the National Association of Nigeria Students (NANS) in Maiduguri, Borno State, on Wednesday.

The NANS President, Baba Bashir, who was taken to the nearby Metro Police Divisional

Headquarters, after being thoroughly beaten during the protest, was later taken to the state police headquarters, and released at about 5 p.m.

Neither the police nor the state government could justify the killing of the students, who were protesting the continuous closure of their schools for about four months.

State owned tertiary institutions in Borno State were grounded during their 2008 end-of-session examination, following

the alleged reluctance of the state government to implement the controversial Consolidated Tertiary Institutions Salary Structure (CONTISS).

NANS officials already given a two-weeks ultimatum to the government over the matter.

The state government did not, however, heed the warning, though it explained that the delay in the implementation of the pay package was because the government could not afford the over N109 million required for its

implementation.

Daily Independent gathered that the student had met with Deputy Governor, Adamu Dibal on the eve of the protest, to exploit ways of averting the crisis; but the meeting turned a stalemate, when the NANS President, Baba Bashir, was walked out of Dibal's office.

Aware that the demonstration has become inevitable, the state government allegedly mobilised the police mobile units in the state, who trooped out as early as 6 a.m. on Wednesday.