

UNIUYO student shot dead

•Controversy trails killing

From Iniobong Ekpota, Uyo

AN autopsy on the body of Patience Eyo Ukpong, at the General Hospital, Uyo, will determine what killed the final year student of the University of Uyo (UNIUYO), Akwa Ibom State.

According to neighbours at her 3, Kelvin Street residence, Patience was allegedly shot dead by a police constable, with whom she quarrelled over rain water.

She was alleged to have been shot at a close range last Thursday night by a police constable.

Before the incident, she was on a standby duty at the Area Commander's Office.

"According to residents, sound of gunshot was heard at about 11 pm after a brawl with the deceased.

Explaining the circumstances that led to her death, one of the residents who did not want to be named, said: "On the fateful day, there was a quarrel which some of us thought was minor. It was just a mere struggle on whose container should be the first to fetch rain water that night, and suddenly it developed into a fight.

"After the fight they were still quarrelling late into the night until we heard a sound which all of us thought was a gunshot and as we came out, behold Patience was helpless on the ground and we thought perhaps she was struck by lightning because of the rain, until a close look revealed she was in the pool of blood.

Although the Commissioner of Police, Mr. Mike Zuokumor, has denied the late Patience's death being linked with a gunshot, the case, has been transferred to the state Criminal Investigation Department (CID).

According to Zuokumor, due process would be followed and if the suspect was found culpable, the full weight of the law would be applied.