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Student's death sparks violence in Ekiti

Posted By: [SOLOMON ODENIYI](#) On: October 12, 2017 In: [Campus Life](#)

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A health centre and properties worth millions of naira were destroyed in a protest by students of the Federal Polytechnic, Ado-Ekiti (ADO POLY) in Ekiti State, following the death of a Higher National Diploma (HND) student, Oluwafemi Vincent Taiwo. The protesters alleged that their colleague died as a result of negligence at the school's health centre. The management denied any wrongdoing, shutting down the school indefinitely. SOLOMON ODENIYI reports.

Students of the Federal Polytechnic, Ado-Ekiti (ADO POLY) in Ekiti State went wild last Saturday, destroying the school's property in a protest that followed the death of a student identified as Oluwafemi Vincent Taiwo.

In the rampage, the students torched the school's health centre. Afterwards, they moved to the highway leading to the institution, destroying properties and smashing windcreens of vehicles. They also went on a looting binge at the polytechnic's poultry, stealing eggs and chickens.

They blamed Vincent's death on negligence by the school clinic workers, alleging that the victim was not attended to hours after he arrived at the facility.

CAMPUSLIFE gathered that the late Vincent, a Higher National Diploma (HND) Estate Management student, had gone to the health centre last Friday and complained of a severe headache and chest pain.

He was said to be left unattended to before his condition got worse. On noticing that they could not handle his treatment, the school clinic workers reportedly referred the student to the Ekiti State University Teaching Hospital.

However, his family members were said to have discharged him forcefully after being neglected by doctors at the teaching hospital.

CAMPUSLIFE gathered that the late Vincent was later taken to his hometown, Ikole-Ekiti, where he later died on Saturday morning

A close friend of the deceased, who pleaded for anonymity, told CAMPUSLIFE: “Vincent took himself to the school health centre, but he was not given proper treatment. He was only injected with sleeping syrup. Immediately he woke up, he could not move any of his body parts. It was then he was rushed to the Teaching Hospital.

“Even at the Teaching Hospital, he was not attended to because he had no National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) plan. Yet, the hospital was not ready to release him and would not treat him either. It was the next day his brother forcefully discharged him so that he could be taken to a private hospital in Ikole-Ekiti.”

In response to the violence, the management of Ado Poly shut the school indefinitely to prevent further breakdown of law and order. It ordered all students out of the campus.

A top management staff member, who was not permitted to talk to the press on the matter, absolved the school from wrongdoing when he spoke to our correspondent.

He said: “The student was discovered to be an ulcer patient when he was taken to the health centre. At that time, his pulse was low. So, the health centre workers rushed him to the Ekiti State Teaching Hospital. By the morning when the management members got there, the student had been taken away by a man whose relationship with the deceased we don’t know as I speak to you.

“The late student was taken away against medical advice. We learnt the person was made to sign an undertaking, which he did. The deceased was taken away alive from the Teaching Hospital but died later. How that becomes the problem of the school remains a mystery.”

A student of the polytechnic, who was at the Ekiti State Teaching Hospital last Friday, told CAMPUSLIFE the deceased was in pain before he was taken away by his family members. According to the student, whose dad is on admission at the Teaching Hospital, the late Vincent pleaded with his brother to take him away because of the pain.

The president of the Students' Union Government (SUG), Samuel Dairo, condemned the violence. He said although there were complaints by students about the poor care and attention they got at the health centre, there was no justification for the violence.

He said: "I was outside the campus when I got information about the violence. By the time I got to the health centre, I saw the building on fire. Students were all over, destroying property. The situation could not be controlled again by SUG officials, even though we made an effort to stop the protesters. We condemned the violence. Whatever happened is not for anyone to take the law into his own hands."

Reacting, the Rector, Dr. Theresa Akande, denied the claim of negligence by the students.

She said: "The allegation that when they got there (health centre), they were not given proper care is not true, because I use the health centre myself. I go there many times unannounced and if there had been lapses, I would have noticed."

The rector said Vincent did not die at the health centre or Teaching Hospital, wondering why the students destroyed the school property.

According to the rector, Vincent was brought into the health centre on Friday morning "seriously ill".

She said: "The deceased was given attention at the health centre. He was admitted, because we have admission facilities. Towards evening, it was noticed that his condition was deteriorating and immediately, he was taken to the Teaching Hospital accompanied by a nurse.

“According to them, they stabilised him, but to their shock, yesterday (Saturday) morning, somebody who claimed to be the brother came and discharged him forcibly and said he was going to take care of him.”

To forestall further violence, the management shut the school and inaugurated a seven-man panel of inquiry to unravel the cause of the violence and take stock of things destroyed.

The management, on Monday, proscribed the SUG and suspended all the union activities till further notice. The decision to suspend the students’ body was reached after a meeting with the suspended union executive members and some student leaders of the institution.



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