



# CAMPUS LIFE

THURSDAY MARCH 10, 2022

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The shooting of a student at the University of Benin (UNIBEN), the late Susan Obloh, allegedly by armed robbers, has generated furore among students of the institution. They want government, management and the Police to act decisively on the matter and ensure culprits face the wrath of the law.

IFUNANYA OSAKWE (UNIBEN) reports.

## Row over shooting of UNIBEN student

•Students seek justice for slain colleague

**L**IFE is beautiful and precious, but when taken away suddenly, it leaves a huge hole in the heart of loved ones. Susan Obloh, a 600-Level student at the Pharmacy Department, University of Benin, had hope of a bright future until she was felled by bullets of armed robbers in her hostel. She didn't die immediately, she was taken to the University of Benin Teaching Hospital (UBTH) and was later on life support.

However, on Thursday, March 4, 2022, Obloh gave up the ghost.

CAMPUS LIFE gathered that the deceased died at the intensive care unit of the University of Benin Teaching Hospital after attempts by medical personnel to save her life.

The armed robbery gang with that singular deed cut short her dream of becoming a pharmacist.

Obloh, who hailed from the Urhobo-speaking part of Delta State, was known to be of good behaviour among her colleagues.

The murderous armed robbery gang reportedly traced some students to the hostel at Osasogie, with the intention of hijacking their cars and some other belongings.

According to a source, the robbers were overheard by two friends at Osasogie back gate discussing about their planned robbery attack.

The source claimed that the two friends who overheard the armed robbers planning the heinous crime were trailed by the robbers whom the source claimed were just two.

Unknown to them the robbers trailed them to their hostel and attacked them.

He said: "The friends were with their private cars and on getting to their hostel were attacked by the two robbers."

"They told the male friend to give them the car key after robbing them of their iPhone and other belongings. While they were struggling with it, Obloh came down with a friend whom she walked to the hostel gate. Unaware of what was going at the entrance gate, she walked into the robbery scene."

"The robbers upon seeing her, probably out of shock, shot her and escaped, leaving behind the items they stole from their first victims."

Further investigation by CAMPUS LIFE revealed that the deceased was shot on the thigh which led to the severance of her femoral artery.

It was gathered that Susan was found one hour later in the pool of her blood lying unconscious after the bullet had struck her.

The incident was reported to have taken place at night at about 8:00pm. After she was shot, everyone around the vicinity took to their heels out of fear.

President of Faculty of Pharmacy, Nnadi Gerald, said: "The gatekeeper attached to the hostel was the one who saw her and alerted the neighbours who then rushed her to the University of Benin Teaching Hospital (UBTH)."

"She was undergoing surgery in a bid to

save her life. It was during the surgery they discovered that her femoral artery had been severed by bullet."

CAMPUS LIFE also learnt that some pellets found their way into the deceased's lower abdomen.

Osasogie being another annex of the UNIBEN has had its fair share of armed robbery attacks. The shooting of Obloh revealed the level of insecurity in the area.

Most students of UNIBEN decried inadequate security in Osasogie, Ekosodin and BDPA. But the situation is yet to be addressed.

According to them, no day passes without one crime or the other happening in those areas. They said the areas deserve greater attention, considering that they are highly populated by students.

### Students react, seek justice for slain colleague

The students have taken to the social media, demanding for justice for their late colleague. According to them, Obloh's death has opened the eyes of many students to the lack of adequate security personnel at off-campus hostels and communities.

Iman Cherish, a Linguistics student, said:

"Hearing such a sad news on a Friday is not a joke. This is an attack against all UNIBEN students and we must get justice for Obloh."

"The security agencies handling the case should up their game and ensure that the culprits who killed such an innocent girl are apprehended and justice meted out in accordance with the law of the state."

Gerald said: "This is the worst that has befallen the Pharmacy Department. And we have taken it upon ourselves to fight for justice for Obloh."

"We are not happy. Her death was a shock and her destiny was cut short by the robbers."

"We are saying justice must be served. Already we are planning a justice walk for her and a candle light procession to mourn her."

"We need all stakeholders especially the police and other security agents to come together and help fight for Susan Obloh who had been a friend of all. We will not relent in our efforts," he said.

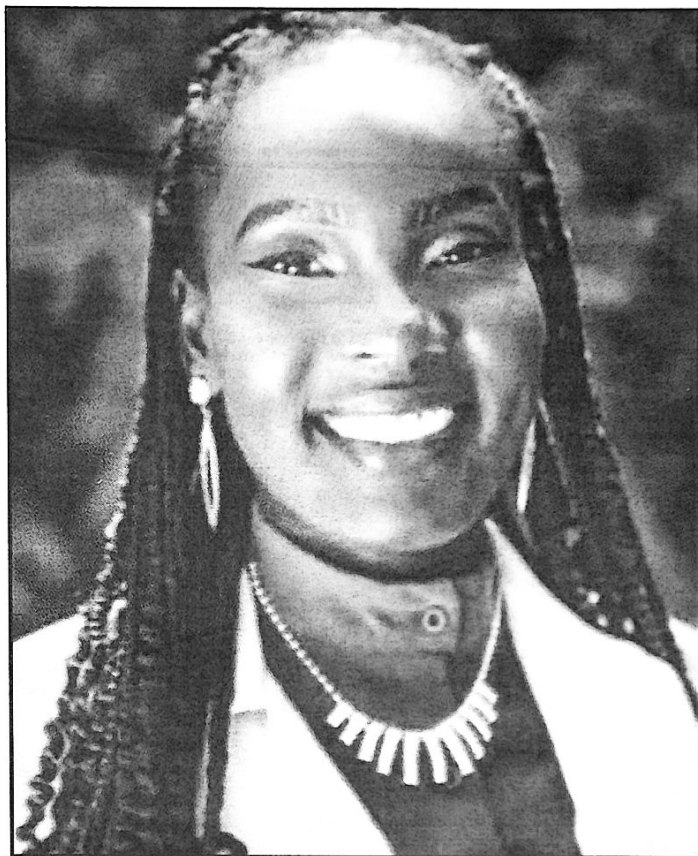
Bimbola Adesua, an Economics student, said she was still in shock over the death of Obloh.

"We were all hopeful and prayerful that Susan recovers from the unfortunate incident. We prayed for her to get well soon. She was too young and nice to die for nothing."

"It is an unforgettable incident. As for those who shot her, I hope they are apprehended so that they will pay for their crime."

"It is an ungodly act and what a man sows, that he shall reap. The police should intensify their investigation and I believe the robbers will be caught in no time."

"If we turn a blind eye to the insecurity



•The late Obloh

situation in this country, one day we will wake up to a world where crime is the norm.

"This is why we must never justify crime, no matter how small it may seem. Several students have been robbed at Osasogie, including me."

"When I was robbed I immediately reported the incidence to the police station at BDPA. This is to keep the security officers on alert to suspicious movements."

"However, it is most unfortunate that over 50 per cent of robbery in Osasogie and even BDPA are never reported to the police. This often creates a false sense of security within the areas."

"The death of Obloh will continue to make us sad. We are, however, demanding justice. The killers must be apprehended," she said.

For Clement Okundu, a Philosophy student, security agents must explain why the armed robbers went unhurt.

He said: "It is quite an unfortunate situation. The security agents owe us the duty to unravel why Obloh became a victim of the robbers and why the armed robbers themselves went away unhurt."

"What if she was called on the phone to come down by someone only to be shot? Was Susan Obloh having a face-off with any person around the vicinity? If the armed robbers were afraid that probably the girl saw them, why shoot only her?"

A student who craved anonymity, said: "The story is suspicious and that is why proper investigation should be done."

"Circumstances surrounding the way and manner the deceased was shot are not clear. Why was Obloh the only person shot? I will advise that the police do a thorough investigation of the crime."

A Geography student, Joy Osaruwen, said: "From the story that was told, the deceased was lying in her own pool of blood for close to one hour. Does that mean that the residents of the hostel did not hear the sound of a gun shot outside their gate?"

"Why didn't anyone come out to see what was happening? Even if not immediately, at

least within the next 20 minutes? The police should investigate the incident thoroughly."

Michelle Okpara, a Pharmacy student, described the deceased as a loving and inspiring soul, who dedicated her time to encouraging young girls like her to study hard.

She said: "Susan Obloh was an inspiration to her colleagues through her various podcast videos. We have lost a great person and we pray for the repose of her soul."

"We are already planning a justice walk and candle night for her but it is not enough. The culprits must be apprehended and sentenced to death. Only then can justice be served."

### Management wants a thorough investigation

The management of the university has called for a proper and thorough investigation into the circumstances surrounding the death of Obloh.

According to the Dean of Students Affairs, Dr. Clem Ighodaro, the school management is doing all within its power to ensure that those responsible for Obloh's death do not go scot-free.

"It was a sad news when I came to know about the shooting of our student, Susan Obloh, which eventually led to her death at the University of Benin Teaching Hospital."

"The police are doing their investigation and we can only wait for their findings. However, we are solidly behind the students of the institution," he said.

### Police confirm student's death

The Police Public Relations Officer, Edo State Command, Superintendent Bello Kontong in a chat with CAMPUS LIFE, confirmed the demise of Obloh.

According to him, Susan Obloh was shot and later confirmed dead after several attempts to save her life by the medical personnel at the UBTH.