

~~2~~ Kidnapped Kogi varsity students killed

•Varsity declares three-day mourning

THE Police command in Kogi yesterday confirmed the killing of two of the abducted students of Confluence University of Science and Technology (CUSTECH), Osara.

The State Police Commissioner, Mr Bethrand Onuoha, confirmed the death to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), yesterday in Lokoja.

Onuoha described the killing as "very unfortunate". The CP, who did not give further details, said security operatives were on the trail of the abductors to bring them to book.

NAN reports that abductors invaded the school around 9.00 p. m. on May 9 while the students were studying in their classes ahead of their examinations slated for May 13, and abducted some students, after shooting sporadically into the air.

Although security agencies had rescued 21 of the abducted students with the help of local hunters, a few were still in the hands of the abductors.

Meanwhile, the management of CUSTECH has declared three-day mourning over the killing of two students of the institution by kidnappers.

Its Registrar, Ms Olufunke Hudson, made this known in a statement yesterday.

The students - James Michael-Anajuwe and Musa Hussein, first year students of Information Technology and

Software Engineering, were among students of the university kidnapped on May 9.

They students were abducted while reading for their examinations slated to start on May 13.

Twenty-one of the students have been rescued through efforts of security operatives and local hunters.

Hudson said: "It is with deep shock and pain that the management of CUSTECH is mourning our beloved slain students.

"Consequently, all activities in the university are to be held low-key from May 27 to May 29 in memory of our departed students."

The registrar said that the university management shared in the grief of the families and colleagues of the deceased students.

She urged the parents, other family members, guardians, friends and well-wishers of the deceased students to take solace in God.

According to her, the state government is intensifying efforts to ensure safe rescue of the remaining students from their abductors.

"Gov. Usman Ododo is leaving no stone unturned at ensuring that the students are released safely.

"We, therefore, urge everyone to remain calm and maintain the peace the state is enjoying."