

Auchi students protest yet another police killings

From **BOJELE PATRICK,**
Benin City

BARELY a week after a police officer allegedly shot and killed an NDI student of the Auchi polytechnic at the school gate along the Okene/Abuja/

5th International ICT conference

Akinmade as its Chairperson. AICTTRA is the acronym for Application of Information

Benin highway, another bizzare has fallen on the school as a police bullion van knocked down two of its students along the highway.

New Nigerian on Sunday learnt that the incident led to the closure of the highway by and Communication Technologies to Teaching, Research and Administration.

the students for over five hours last Thursday, while protesting the death of their colleagues by the bullion van.

The bullion van that was on high speed was said to have knocked down the students who were on motorcycle in front of the school gate. It was learnt that while one of the students was said to have died on the spot, the other was rushed to hospital for medical

attention, while the three policemen who were occupant of the van immediately escaped leaving the vehicle behind for the irate students to tow.

With the event of last weekend still fresh on their mind, the irate students, in their hundreds gathered and marched towards the police station with gallons filled with fuel.

However, attempt for them

to burn the station was resisted as the police in collaboration with the vigilante started shooting sporadically into the air and chased the students back to the school gate.

It would be recalled that only last Friday, there was a heavy riot in Auchi when a police officer allegedly shot and killed a student of the polytechnic. The riot had resulted in the same highway being closed for more than six hours, while several vehicles plying the route were vandalized. It took the efforts of the state governor, Comrade Adams Oshiomhole, who was personally present at the riot scene to persuade the students to return to campus assuring that government would investigate the incident.

New Nigeria on Sunday had reported that the protest also led to the offices of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) looted, and thirteen impounded vehicles including four of the FRSC patrol van and part of their office touched.

Reports had it that it took the effort of Auchi vigilante and that of neighbouring community to prevent the crisis degenerating into that of last Friday.

JTF back to Bayelsa again

From **UCHENNA**
NWAFOR, Yenagoo

THE incidence of lawlessness and insecurity which has recently engulfed Bayelsa State has no doubt called for the resurgence of the Joint Military Task Force, otherwise known as JTF in the state, to curb such vices which have equally attracted more panic to residents of the state.

Investigations, however, showed that such violent killings are attributed to cultism and armed attacks on political office holders including the Former Deputy Governor, Peremobowei Ebebi, even as the maternal home of Governor Chief Timipre Sylva was yesterday morning attacked by armed youths.

...as violence resurfaces to the state

This was even as armed men had in the last few days attacked the homes of the Senior Special Assistant to the Governor on Conflict Resolution, Mike Wenifowei, the home of the impeached Deputy Governor, Peremobowei Ebebi, the state chairman of Sanitation Authority, Chief Reginald Dede, and the country home of Governor, Chief Timipre Sylva.

Cult-related killings, which had led to the killing of at least seven persons within the state capital including the killing of a middle-aged man at the junction of the popular Imgbi Road in Yenagoo.

New Nigerian on Sunday also observed that the JTF had

deployed men in full battle fatigue in strategic locations of the state capital to mount roadblocks in "a stop and search operation." JTF armoured personnel carriers and armed soldiers searched all categories of cars on the major streets of the state capital apart from the regular police checkpoints in different parts of the state.

The Coordinator of the Joint Media Campaign Centre, Lt. Col. Timothy Antigha, said the JTF was assisting the police to ensure safety of lives and property in the state. The headquarters of the JTF is located in Yenagoo, the Bayelsa State capital.

Last week, there had been

seven deaths that followed a similar pattern of gang-related killings and Mafia style hits.

According to the Coordinator of the Joint Media Centre of the Joint Military Task Force, Lt. Col. Timothy Anthiga, the deployment of soldiers was at the instance of the state government and it is to complement the security provided by the police. "

There is no cause for alarm. What we are doing is to augment what other security agencies are doing in the state. There has been shootings in the state in the past few days, that is why you see these men checking and searching cars," the coordinator said.