

① Tuition hike protest: One student killed in Kaduna

From Muhammad Sabiu and Clement Idoko

THE National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS) has given Governor Nasir El-Rufai of Kaduna State 21 days to reverse the increase in school fees ahead of its national congress slated for July 19.

Their warning came as a student of the College of Education, Gidan Waya, Kafanchan was allegedly shot dead by security operatives during a peaceful protest over hike in tuition fees on Monday.

The national president of NANS, Comrade Sunday Asefon, who received the news of the development, registered his anger over the incident.

Nigerian Tribune gathered that a peaceful protest was organised on Monday by the students of the college against hike in their tuition fees.

The protest later turned violent, resulting in the death of a student allegedly shot by security operatives, while another student was injured.

An eyewitness who pleaded anonymity alleged that the security operatives fired shots to disperse the protesting students following a confrontation after they [students] tried to force their way into the school.

He said the students also blocked the highway in front of the school, thereby preventing free flow of traffic.

However, provost of the college, Professor Alexander Kure, who confirmed the development to journalists on Monday said: "The incident happened on the highway and not inside the school. I was told by the

security that one student was killed and another injured.

"I offered an ambulance to take the corpse to the mortuary, and the other person that got injured to the hospital for treatment."

Professor Kure said the school was shut on Sunday for mid-semester break, noting that he was not aware of the reason for the students' protest.

Efforts to contact the spokesperson for the state police command, ASP Mohammad Jalige, was not successful as he did not answer calls made to his phone.

Meanwhile, the national president of NANS while addressing newsmen in Kaduna on Monday said the association would deliberate on the incident, adding that all organs and sister bodies of NANS nationwide had been put on alert to relocate to Kaduna to further press home their demand from the state government.

Meanwhile, the state government has confirmed the death of a student during Monday's protest at College of Education, Gidan Waya.

This was even as it said it did not send security operatives to suppress the protest.

This was contained in a statement issued by the Commissioner for Internal Security and Home Affairs, Samuel Aruwan, on Monday.

The statement said the state government would await full reports on the protest by students.

"In the preliminary report received so far, one student lost his life and some others were wounded, while three security personnel also sustained injuries," Aruwan said.

③ Tanker explosion kills three in Benue