

BUK students burn police van over death of colleague

JOHN ALECHENU

STUDENTS of the Bayero University Kano, on Friday, burnt a police patrol vehicle and made a bonfire to protest the death of one of their colleagues, allegedly in police custody.

Sunday Punch learnt that two brothers, Jude (now deceased) and Romanus Alpothwo were arrested by the police in connection with an armed robbery attack on three university staff, in the University Staff quarters on campus.

The workers lost computer laptops and more than N300, 000 cash during the attack.

Investigations by the police led to the arrest of the two suspects in their off campus residence at

Rimin-Gata village.

The State Police commissioner, Mohammed Abubakar, in a telephone interview, confirmed the death of the student to our correspondent, but denied that he died in police custody.

He said, "The deceased was ill when he was arrested, his illness degenerated and he was taken to the hospital where he died."

Unconfirmed reports stated that some of the missing items were found with the suspects before their arrest.

Trouble began when news of the death of Jude filtered into the main campus of the University along Gwarzo road, around 9pm on Friday night.

Students who were watching the ongoing world cup football tournament,

mobilised and stormed the official residence of the Vice-Chancellor. Others moved out on the Gwarzo road where they descended on the police patrol vehicle.

The Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Attahiru Jega, in an interview with newsmen in his office on Saturday, described the incident as unfortunate. He said the university invited the police to investigate the robbery incident, which occurred about a week ago.

He said, "About a week ago, there was an armed robbery incident on this campus, we notified the police as usual and the police promised us that they were going to thoroughly investigate the matter."

Jega confirmed the arrest of the two students and

the death of one of them.

He said the police commissioner assured him that the suspect was not tortured

Police to MASSOB: Steer clear of Imo

FIDELIS SORIWEL

THE Imo State Police Command on Friday warned members of the Movement for the Actualisation of the Sovereign State of Biafra to steer clear of the state.

It said its men would not condone any illegal activity meant to threaten the peace in the state.

Speaking with Sunday Punch, the Police Public Relations Officer of the command, Mr. Isah Mohammed, a Deputy Superintendent of Police, stated that policemen in the state had been put on the alert in anticipation of a relocation of the members of MASSOB and their NARTO opponents to the state. According to him, the po-

but that the university was waiting for the result of an autopsy to know what step

to take. He said no university property was lost during the demonstration.

respondent had it on good authority that the Onitsha problem and the increasing robbery activities, especially in the commercial city of Abia in Abia State had culminated in the deployment of soldiers in the area.

Meanwhile, MASSOB stated in a release obtained by our correspondent on Saturday, that it had lost a total of 19 of its members since a special squad of the Nigerian Police was deployed in Onitsha to dislodge them.

In the release signed by the the organisation's Deputy Director of Information, Mr. Chris Mocha, MASSOB accused a top chieftain of the Peoples Democratic Party, (names withheld) of being behind the clash between the group and NARTO and

look into the issue.

He stated that the organisation would continue to pursue its struggle for independent Biafra through non-violence as initiated by Uwazuruike (now facing treason charges in Abuja) while also urging its members to be resolute in ensuring that their activities were always peaceful.

Members of Umuchiakuma community, Ihechiowa, in Arochuku Local Government Area of Abia State have debunked the claim that they are persecuting members of a Catholic church in the area.

They said, contrary to the claim by the pastor of the church, no member of the church recently had his/her property destroyed or vandalized by anybody in the