

Rights groups condemn extra-judicial killings in Warri

Emmanuel Addeh, Warri

Prominent human rights groups in Delta State on Friday condemned the rising cases of extra-judicial killings in Warri,

Dangote ties lower cement price to railway

Femi Makinde, Ado-Ekiti

A major manufacturer of cement in Nigeria, the Dangote Cement Company, has described the resuscitation of the ailing railway system as a prerequisite for reducing the price of cement in the country.

The Managing Director of Dangote Cement, Lagos Cement Terminal, Mr. Akin Adesokan, said this in an interview with our correspondent in Ado-Ekiti, after the inauguration of the company's depot in the Ekiti State capital.

Adesokan explained that the establishment of the depot was aimed at bringing cement closer to distributors and end users, which would lead to reduction in the price of the product.

He said the depot would sell cement to the public at the cost of N1,545 per bag, adding that the cost of transporting cement from the factory to end users was the major cause of the increase in its price.

Adesokan noted that it was cheaper to transport cement from the factories to the

the commercial capital of the state.

The Committee for the Defence of Human Rights, and the Forum for Justice and Human Rights Defence

in separate interviews with our correspondent, condemned the trend, describing it as dangerous and uncivilised.

In the last two months,

customers by rail.

He said delivery time for trucks could not be guaranteed, even if the distance was not more than 50km.

He said, "Freighting is vital in cement business. If you can get the rail system working in Nigeria, it will be a lot

easy and cheap to transport cement, and the price will be reduced.

"When you have good rail facilities in the country, it will ease everything not only the price of cement but prices of other products would also become cheaper."

Anxiety in UNIJOS over expulsion of 1,000 students

Jude Owuamanam, Jos

Anxiety has gripped students of the University of Jos, over the expulsion of more than 1,000 students.

The students were said to have been deficient in the requirements for admission into the school.

SATURDAY PUNCH learnt that the fear was compounded by the fact that the university had said the list was not exhaustive, as more students would soon be expelled.

It was learnt that the students had undergone a series of screening organised by the Committee on the Screening of Students' Credentials, which submitted

its report to the university.

A source in the university told **SATURDAY PUNCH** that because the students registered online, some of them claimed credentials they never had.

A majority of the students have spent between two and four years in the university without regularising their credentials.

"It was necessary to publish the list because most of them have been deceiving their parents that they were in school, and others have been roaming about the school, committing all kinds of atrocities and the authorities want to rid the university community of such undesirable students," the source said.

there have been at least 25 reported cases of mob action against suspected criminals, who are usually burnt alive by irate youths.

On Monday, two suspected thieves were burnt alive in the oil rich city.

The suspects had reportedly attempted to snatch a vehicle at Ugbori village, in the Olu Palace area of Warri before they were apprehended.

Sources said the bandits had trailed a posh car from Ugbori village in a bid to snatch it from the owner, but the driver raised the alarm.

This reportedly attracted people in the area, who chased and caught the suspects at the Olu Palace junction, Ajamogha, Warri.

A few weeks ago, four robbery suspects were set ablaze; an action described as the highest single incident of mob attack in the city.

A boy, identified simply as Nmama, was set ablaze last week on the heels of the burning of two suspected bank robbers on Airport Road, while another suspect suffered the same fate at Enerhen Junction, for allegedly snatching a bag containing N150.

But the National Coordinator of FJHD, Mr. Oghenejabor Ikimi, on Tuesday, said the killing of suspected criminals who had not been convicted by a competent court of law was "strange" to the constitution of Nigeria.