

Protest as phone thieves stab undergraduate to death in Cross River

Ada Wodu 5 June 2021

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Students of the University of Cross River State in Calabar on Friday protested against the stabbing to death of a student by phone robbers.

Our correspondent gathered that the deceased identified as Ford Nkasi, a final year student of Visual Art Department, saw a gang robbing a female student of her smartphone and confronted them to retrieve the phone but they stabbed him several times and he bled to death.

According to eyewitnesses, the attack happened near the school's administrative building some metres away from the security post at about 9pm on Thursday and attempts to take the student to a hospital were allegedly delayed by the security officials who gave several excuses for not using the school vehicle at the security post to transport the victim.

Some students who spoke during the protest on Friday morning blamed the security men's delay in taking the victim to the hospital as responsible for his death.

It was learnt that Nkasi was a student of the Visual Arts Department and was in school for final clearance after his final-year examinations.

Saturday PUNCH gathered further that the school's security guards arrested two of the suspects.

One of the students said, "All we want is to let the school security release the suspects they have arrested to us. They said the suspects have been handed over to the police and with our experiences, crimes happened like this in the school and suspects would be arrested and reported to be handed over to the

police but nothing would be heard about it. That is our anger. Since the school cannot protect us, we will protect ourselves.”

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As of the time of this report, the school authorities had yet to issue any statement on the crisis.

The state Police Commissioner, Sikiru Akande, confirmed the incident, saying that some students protested and wanted to burn down the university’s administrative building following the student’s death.

He said cultists spearheaded the problem and “some of the cultists have been arrested, still some idiots gathered themselves under the guise of protesting against the death of a student; they wanted to burn the university administrative building; who will be at a loss? Any attempt by any group of persons, under any guise, to disturb the peace we have in Cross River State will be matched with the required force.”

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A graphic for Telegram promotion. It features the text "We are on Telegram!" in a large, bold, dark blue font. Below it, in a smaller dark blue font, is "You're invited to join our community." To the right of the text is a large blue circle containing a white paper airplane icon. Below the text and to the left of the large circle are three smaller white paper airplane icons. At the bottom left is a red button with the text "Join Us" in white.

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