

Robbers, crash kill UI students, colleagues call for prayers

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STUDENTS and members of staff of the University of Ibadan have been thrown into mourning following the sudden deaths of two undergraduates of the institution within 24 hours.

One of the victims, Adegoke Adedayo, a final-year student of the Department of History, was shot dead during a robbery close to the UI/Bodija Road.

The incident was said to have happened in the early hours of Sunday.

Also, a 200-level student of the Department of Microbiology



• The deceased students



Faculty of Science, Ayomide Adeyemo, was knocked down by a vehicle while crossing the road close to the school's main gate.

The Director of Communication of the university, Tunji Oladejo, who confirmed the robbery incident,

said the police had started investigation.

He said, "The matter has been reported to the Bodija Police Division. The Oyo State Police Command is conducting a discreet investigation on the sad development. The body of the late student is with the University College Hospital for autopsy."

The Police Public Relations Officer in Oyo State, Adewale Osifeso, did not respond to inquiries from our correspondents.

The President-elect of the UI Students' Union Government, Yinka Adewole, said efforts to save Adedayo proved abortive.

"The Dean and Deputy Dean, Students Affairs, University of Ibadan, Head of Department of History and the security unit of the university made several efforts to ensure that the student survived, but he died.

"We (SUG) are planning to organise prayers and sensitisation on safety tips for students."

The Public Relations Officer of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps, Oluwale Olusegun, said the agency received a report that suspected robbers shot somebody around the Preboye area between 7pm and 8pm.

He said, "Around 9pm the same day, another person was shot at the Civic Centre area by the same set of gang. Our men are investigating the cases."

Meanwhile, the outgoing SUG President, Olusegun Akeju, said the remains of Adedayo were buried on Monday.

Akeju called for a thorough investigation into the killing of the final-year student, adding that security agencies should beef up security around Agbowo and other areas where students of the university staying off-campus lived.

He said, "We buried him this evening (Monday). We also met with the DPO in charge of the area and we demanded credible investigation into the incident and they said they had already started investigating it."

"We have also met with representatives of the government to make sure that the case is not swept under the carpet. What is also more important is that we want them to beef up security around UI and its environment."

las Ebubeagu invades Ebonyi community



• Amasiri community

and Tuesday before Ebubeagu came and started shooting at us for arguing with them. We told them we had reached an agreement with the company and that we had unsealed the company.

"Their management even gave us something in appreciation for our peaceful conduct. So, we are at a loss as to why Ebubeagu came and shot some of us. One of the victims died on the way to a hospital, while two others died while receiving treatment."

Another source explained that the youth, prior to sealing the company, had accused the management of foot-dragging on the rehabilitation of a four-kilometre road in Amaebor and the naming of the Community Liaison Officer.

The source said, "Some of those injured were taken by security men from the hospital to Abakaliki. Yesterday (Sunday), they came and were chasing and firing sporadically when a stray bullet hit another youth, who died immediately."

"We know that the Ebubeagu operatives were invited by politicians because they want the CLO to be appointed from another village in Ohaechara instead of Amaebor that the post is zoned to."

Efforts to speak with the Amasiri Commander of Ebubeagu, Paul Agbii, and the Amaebor Youth Leader, Uka Eze, were abortive, as their telephone lines were switched off.

The state Police Public Relations Officer, Loveth Odah, said she did not have details of the incident.

"I spoke to the DPO and he said the matter was reported to the headquarters, but I have yet to get the person investigating the matter since it was the weekend," she said.

But the consultant to the state government on security and Coordinator of Ebubeagu, Stanley Okoro, said the fatalities occurred after the youth of the community engaged the security outfit in a shootout.

Okoro said, "The youth there stopped the quarry from operating. The council chairman went there to beg, but they refused all her pleadings."

"When Ebubeagu got there, the youth opened fire on them. It was their leader's bullet that killed one of them. But he has been arrested by security agencies."

als, machines



inflammable and it was spreading very fast.

"The goods I lost are more than N10m as I have two machines and each is worth over N2m. We had 500,000 tonnes of raw materials on ground. Each tonne costs N350,000, not to talk of the structure on ground."

"This is what I have been putting together for over 10 years now; it has gone down the drain."