

Family of slain Rivers varsity student seeks justice

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File Photo: Rivers State Commissioner of Police, Olugbenga Adepoju

| By Dennis Naku

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The family of a 300-level student of the Ignatius Ajuru University of Education, Rumuolumeni in Rivers State who was killed last Saturday has called for a thorough investigation into his death to ensure that justice to her is served.

The family also said contrary to some reports making the rounds, their late son, Julius Okpor, was not a cultist.

The command, in a statement by its spokesperson, Grace Iringe-Koko, had said the student, Julius, who hailed from Okposi community in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni LGA of the state was shot dead during a suspected clash by rival cult groups in Rumuolumeni, Obio/Akpor Local Government Area, where the institution is located.

But the elder brother of the deceased, Ambrose Okpor, while speaking to newsmen in Port Harcourt on Tuesday evening dismissed reports linking his brother to cultism, insisting that he was never a cultist.

Okpor said he got wind of the incident from the deceased's friend who informed that he was critically injured after being shot, adding that he raced to the scene and when he arrived he met some policemen and vigilantes, but that Julius had already passed.

He also clarified that the remains of his late brother were deposited at the Military Hospital in Port Harcourt and not taken to the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital as related by the police.

“On July 19, 2025, I received a distress call at about 9pm from my brother’s friend, who is also his neighbour at Cevelia Street, Rumuolumeni, that my brother had been shot and lying critically on the street.

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“On getting to the scene, I saw some policemen and OSPAC (codename for a vigilante group). We discovered he died on the spot and we immediately took his remains to the Military Hospital along Aba Road in Port Harcourt.

“Now, the news had it that my brother was taken to the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital, which is not correct.

“My brother was never a cultist. And I want to call on the Nigeria Police to ensure that they get my brother’s killers’ and ensure that justice is served.”

He further said the family would not rest until those responsible for the murder of Julius faced justice.

“We will not let this slide because we are his family members. He is my younger brother and we will not stop until justice is served. My brother was gruesomely murdered by unknown gunmen.

“He was a 300-level student of Computer Science at the Ignatius Ajuru University of Education. He was never a cultist and he did not have any bad record because he led a free life, “a distraught Ambrose stated.

The deceased’s elder sibling further said of his late brother, “His neighbours on Cevelia Street, where he lived, said he was their caretaker and they spoke good of him.”