

# Ondo varsity students protest killing of colleagues, demand justice

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The protesters. Photo: Peter Dada

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The students of Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba Akoko, Ondo State, on Saturday, took to the streets to protest the alleged killing of their fellow students by the indigenes of the town.

This came barely three weeks after two students of the institution, Andre Okah of the Department of History and International Studies and John Abba of the Department of Economics, were allegedly abducted and killed by some persons, some of whom had been arrested by the police.

However, the mastermind killing has reportedly died in police custody.

The protesting students alleged that the latest incident happened to one Joy Adeyemi of the Department of Human Kinetics of the institution. She was suspected of having been murdered on Tuesday by her boyfriend who had fled the community. The alleged killer is said to be an indigene of the town.

During the protest the angry students, who were chanting various solidarity songs, carried placards with inscriptions such as, ‘ At Akungba Akoko, say no to students killing,’ ‘ Stop killing us, AAUA students,’ ‘ The state government should intervene in the killing of AAUA students,’ among others.

One of the protesters, who simply identified himself as Kunle, told our correspondent that the deceased had been killed by her boyfriend since Tuesday and locked her inside his room, stating that it was neighbours who raised the alarm to call attention to the students when they perceived a bad odour from the room.

He said, ” We are yet to know the reason the guy killed that lady. The lady operates a POS in that area but since Tuesday, she has disappeared and nobody knew her whereabouts until yesterday when the neighbours were concerned, and they discovered that she had been stabbed to death by her boyfriend. The boy after killing her went away with the money she used for her POS business.

” It is high time the state government did something about the killings of our students by the indigenes of this town. If nothing is done, this may lead to a serious crisis in this community. You remember that some weeks ago, two of our students were also kidnapped and killed. So something has to be done.”

In the same vein, the National Association of Nigerian Students Joint Campus Committee, in a statement condemned the dastardly act and called on the security agencies to bring the perpetrator to book. The statement was signed by the chairman and secretary of the committee Comrade Adekanye Adeboye and Oladele Emmanuel respectively.

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The statement read, “The National Association of Nigerian Students, Joint Campus Council, Ondo Axis is appalled and deeply saddened by the recent wave of killings targeting students of Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba Akoko, Ondo State. While the student community is still grappling with the tragic loss of two students who were brutally killed in the university, another female student fell victim to this senseless violence just yesterday.

“As a body saddled with the responsibility of overseeing the general affairs and welfare of all Nigerian students, we strongly condemn these heinous acts and demand immediate action from the Ondo State Government and all security operatives responsible for safeguarding lives and property within the state. The incessant killings are a clear indication of a security lapse that must be addressed urgently.

” In light of these tragic events, NANS issues a 24-hour ultimatum to the Ondo State Government and all relevant security agencies to identify and apprehend the perpetrators of these crimes, implement robust security measures to prevent further attacks on students and ensure the safety and security of all students within the university and its environs.

According to the statement, the NANS demanded accountability and serious action to protect the lives of its members, saying that failure to comply with a 24-hour ultimatum “would leave us with no other option than to mobilise all student structures across the country down to Ondo state and stage a massive peaceful protest until our demands are met.”

When contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer in the state, Mr Olayinka Ayanlade confirmed the incident and said three suspects had been arrested over the matter, while efforts were ongoing to arrest the perpetrators.

” We have arrested three suspects and we are making efforts to arrest other fleeing suspects while the investigation is ongoing,” the PPRO stated

In his reaction, the Head of Media and Protocols of the AAUA, Mr Victor Akinpelumi, appealed to the student not to take the law into their hand and allow the police to do a thorough investigation into the matter.

“We are only appealing to the students not to take the law into their hands and they should allow the police to do a thorough investigation and I’m sure justice would be served on the perpetrators,” he urged.