

# Tears in Makurdi, as truck crushes final-year student

FROM ROSE EJEMBI, MAKURDI

**I**f Moses Nnandever, a final year student of National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN), Makurdi Study Centre, knew that death lurked around the corner for him on Wednesday, April 9, this year, he wouldn't have gone out of his house. Or better still, he would have rushed and hidden himself in the church, binding and casting the demon of death into the bottomless pit.

Unfortunately, Moses, a final year student of information technology, who was described as a very brilliant, gentle and responsible student, did not know that the messenger of death was already out, seeking for him that fateful day.

He was on his way to the study centre located at Kanshio area of Makurdi to lecture some of the students, who were preparing for their examinations when a tanker, which allegedly had brake failure, rammed into the motorcycle he was riding on. He was knocked down and killed on the spot while the commercial motorcyclist sustained serious injuries.

The tragic development made students of the institution, most of whom were waiting for Moses to come and lecture them rush to the scene and barricaded the major Makurdi-Oturkpo Highway in protest.

The blockade resulted in gridlock on the



• Bonfire made by the protesting students

road, even as the angry students attempted to set the truck ablaze but for the timely arrival of anti-riot policemen, who prevented them.

At a point, when it became difficult to control the angry students and fearing that hoodlums in the area could cash in on the protest to cause further violence, the policemen started shooting tear-gas canisters to scare them away while the students in turn hauled stones at the security operatives.

The remains of Moses were subsequently removed by members of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) and taken to the mortuary while the motorcyclist was also

taken to the hospital for medical attention.

Some of the students, who knew the late Moses wailed openly while others sat dejected on the bare floor. The angry ones shouted at the top of their voices and insisted that the driver of the truck, who was hiding inside the premises of the Nigerian Prisons Service next to the school, be handed over to them.

The driver was subsequently moved from the area to the police station while the police also took time to clear the road of all the stones, woods and tyres that were used as blockades by the students so as to ease the

already heavy traffic in the area.

John Ikwuobe, a final year student of tourism and the best friend to the deceased was despondent when our correspondent approached him for comments.

According to him, "I was in the school premises when I saw students, running towards the main gate. When I asked, one of them told me there was an accident. I rushed to the scene, only to find the lifeless body of my best friend, Moses, lying in a pool of his blood on the ground."

John, who had bloodstains all over his shirt, said he quickly moved close and held Moses, trying to see if he could be resuscitated. But it was to no avail, as the man was already dead.

"I couldn't believe what I saw because Moses just called me about 30 minutes before the incident to ask where I was and to inform me that he was coming to school to see some students, who had begged him to come and lecture them. I didn't know that it would be the last time I would hear his voice," he lamented.

Another student, who simply gave her name as Mary, had this to say about the deceased: "He was a nice and brilliant guy, who would lecture other students without asking for a dime. Some of us invited him to come and teach us GST and he was on his way when the tanker crushed him. This is sad. We won't have anyone to teach us like Moses again."