

She said the punishment would serve as deterrent to other students in higher institutions to always face their studies and shun secret cult activities.

## Commercial motorcyclists protest killing of member

From Rose Ejembi, Makurdi

**COMMERCIAL** Motorcyclists popularly known as Okada Riders staged wild protest in Makurdi, the Benue State capital yesterday over the killing of one of their members by yet to be identified persons.

Daily Sun gathered that the deceased, whose identity was yet to be known was killed around Quararafa Quarters at about 1am on Thursday while his motorcycle was also taken away by the killers.

Angered by the development, Commercial motorcyclists took to the streets at about 9am yesterday, blocking major roads and causing gridlock in most parts of the metropolis.

One of the protesters, who gave his name as Sunday lamented that three of their members had been gruesomely killed in the last one week while the police seemed not concerned.

He noted that the protest was to draw government attention to their plight, adding that, if the trend was not immediately stopped, it portends great danger to their source of livelihood.

Speaking in a telephone chat with our Correspondent, Chairman, Motorcycle Riders Association (Makurdi), Austin Akaa, explained that his members came in a large number at about 9am yesterday to report the matter to him.

"About 9am this morning, some group of okada riders came to report that criminals had killed one of their members. I then got in touch with the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) in charge of 'A' Division, and he told me that about 2am this morning he got a call that somebody was killed around Quararafa Quarters. However, documents found on the dead Okada man did not indicate that he was a member of our association."

Akaa who also confirmed that this brings to three, the number of motorcycle riders who had been killed within one week, called on the state government to review operational time of commercial motorcyclists in the state to start from 6am to 8pm daily, stressing that it was very risky for anyone to operate commercial motorcycle at odd hours.

While appealing to the state government to provide reflective jackets to members with member boldly written on them for identification, Akaa implored his members to submit themselves to the ongoing biometric capture so that it would be easy to ascertain the exact number of okada riders in the state.

When contacted, the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), ASP Moses Yamu, who confirmed the report, said normalcy has been restored while all areas earlier blocked by the protesting Okada Riders have been cleared.

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