

ASUP accuses

From Benjamin Babine, Abuja

THE Academic Staff Union of Polytechnics (ASUP) has called for an investigation following the killing of her member, Okonye Steve Nduka, by suspected armed men from the 211 Regiment group, Airforce base in Naze, Imo State.

Nduka who was a lecturer with the Federal Polytechnic Nekede, was allegedly killed along with his friend on Monday, January 25.

In a statement yesterday, ASUP Zone D coordinator, Precious Nwakodo, called for an investigation and also asked for the relocation of the Air Force base.

He said the excesses of the soldiers at the base currently located close to the institution have been a constant source of conflict

formed that the erring police of-

Air Force of killing lecturer, calls for investigation

between the soldiers and the Polytechnic community.

Nwakodo described the death of the lecturer as a loss to his family and demanded adequate compensation for his family to cushion the hardship brought by his death.

The statement reads: "The Zonal secretariat of ASUP Zone D has received report of the killing of a member of the Union from Federal Polytechnic Nekede, Comrade Okonye Steve Nduka at about 7 p.m. on the January 25, 2021 at Naze area of Owerri.

"The killing of Comrade Okonye who was until his death, a lecturer at the Computer Science Department of the Federal Polytechnic Nekede was reportedly carried out by armed men suspected

to be from the 211 Regiment group Air Force Base in Neze, Owerri.

"Comrade Okonye was reportedly gunned down by the trigger happy men along with an ex-student of the same Polytechnic as they were on their way back from a church programme.

"The killing of our member is a brutal reminder of the stained reputation of security agents in the country, particularly in the area of extrajudicial killings.

"The reports of a possible case of mistaken identity as the reason for the shooting represent watery and unacceptable excuses as Comrade Okonye and the other occupants of his vehicle were unarmed and nev-

er resisted arrest when the trigger happy men pointed guns at them.

"The killing of Comrade Okonye, a budding academic by these men cannot be swept under the carpet as the Polytechnic community, as well as the people of Ukwuani in Delta State, have been robbed of the contributions of this young comrade to society particularly in his area of professional competence.

"The Union is therefore calling on the government to institute a full scale 'no-holds-barred' investigation into the killing of our comrade and his friend through an investigative panel.

"The unveiling of these gunmen

times."

and their prosecution will serve as a deterrent to others who are in the business of molesting and killing harmless unarmed citizens for fun.

"This shall also save the society from the continued menace of the unprofessionalism of these men who have turned the same citizens they are paid to protect, to hunting games.

"The Union is equally demanding compensation to the families of our fallen comrade and his friend as the families have been deprived of their breadwinners in such avoidable and unacceptable circumstances.