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One feared dead as cult members strike in OAU

• SSANU, NASU, NAAT resume strike Dec 3

In what eyewitnesses described as a likely secret cult attack, a young man identified as Omoboriwo Olufemi Ayoola has been stabbed to death by some unknown assailants at the Obafemi Awolowo University, OAU, Ile-Ife.

This emerged on a day the Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU), Non-Academic Staff Union of Universities (NASU), announced that they have resumed their suspended strike.

The unfortunate incident, which took place at the institution's New Bukataria around 10pm on Thursday, created panic among the students especially those staying at the ETF hostel, which is close to the scene of the attack.

According to an eyewitness, a group of students had gathered at a table at an unnamed shop when argument allegedly ensued over bottles of drinks.

The source said: "The argument didn't last more than two minutes when one of them suddenly collapsed and the others took to their heels in an Highlander SUV they had brought to the scene."

Following the alarm raised by the people around

the scene, Ayoola, who was already in the pool of his own blood, was rushed to the university's health centre, where he was pronounced "Brought in Dead" (BID).

Investigations by *Saturday Telegraph* revealed that the late Ayoola was not a student of the institution but a frequent customer at the bukataria.

However, a statement issued by the university's Public Relations Officer, Mr. Abiodun Olarewaju, noted

that the security unit of the university was immediately dispatched to the scene on rescue mission, "having shut all the exit roads that could be used as escape routes by the perpetrators, some arrests were made and the suspects already handed over to the Moore Police Station in Ile-Ife, where they are currently being interrogated."

The statement added; "The Vice-Chancellor of the university, Prof. Eyitope Ogunbodede, has reassured the general public, particularly our students, their parents and guardians and the entire university community of their safety, urging them to disregard the rumour of cultists' invasion and that they should go about their studies and businesses without fear of any molestation from any quarters."

But the students on the campus under the aegis of the Students' Action and Security Committee have held an emergency congress of the students, where they concluded to issue state-

ments on their position on the matter. They condemned the insecurity on the campus, blaming it on the ban placed on the students' union by the university authorities.

Earlier, a statement issued by the Security Committee of the students' union, headed by Opeyemi Olanrewaju, indicated that the victim might have also been shot in the process.

Some of the students, who spoke to *Saturday Telegraph*,

blamed the university management for the porous security situation on the campus, saying since the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Eyitope Ogunbodede, once described the attack on the student leaders, as a friendly match, violent students had been emboldened to carry out attacks.

Meanwhile, the unions' members of NAAT, NASU, and SSANU had announced the resumption of the strike in a joint statement issued on Thursday night, where they stated that the strike would resume on December 3.

The statement signed by the national presidents of NAAT, Sani Sulaimon; NASU, Chris Ani; and SSANU, Samson Ugwoke, said the unions rejected the mode of sharing the recent financial allocation to universities.

FG launches Digital Switch Over in Kwara

The stage is set for the rollout of the Digital Switch Over (DSO) in Kwara State, following the inspection visit to the facilities of the Integrated Television Services (ITS), a Signal Distributor, in Ilorin yesterday by the Minister of Information and Culture, Alhaji Lai Mohammed.

The minister led a team that included the Director - General of the National Broadcasting Commission (NBC), Malam Ishaq Modibbo Kawa, and the Chair-

man of Digiteam, Mr. Edward Amana, to the ITS' facilities to gauge the readiness for the rollout.

After the inspection, the Chairman of Digiteam said: "We are ready to take off in Ilorin. We have seen the installation and what was lacking before has been rectified. There is some level of redundancy now built into the transmission system."

Amana said at the moment there are 27 channels in the bouquet and that anyone with a Set-Top Box can access the channels within the coverage area of the transmitter