

# FUTA students protest as hit-and-run vehicle kills one



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Students of Federal University of Technology, Akure (FUTA) on Thursday night protested over the death of their colleague, Deborah Olajide, who was reportedly killed along the Akure/Ilesha Road in Akure, the Ondo State capital. Olajide, a 200-level First Class student with CGPA of 4.82 in the Department of Food Science and Technology of the institution, was killed along the Akure/Ilesa Expressway, a few meters away from the main gate of the university on Wednesday night. This development, Saturday Telegraph gathered, threw the university community into mourning as the driver of the vehicle, who caused the death allegedly ran away. The students, who organised a procession which almost turned into a violent protest, gathered in front of the

school and blocked the Akure/Ilesa Expressway on Thursday evening for several hours.

This development led to traffic gridlock along the highway as the travellers, especially those travelling to the northern part of the country were stranded. The students, however, left the road and returned to the campus about 11p.m on Thursday. The state's Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Mr. Femi Joseph, who confirmed the incident, said the real cause of the death of the student was still unknown to the police. He said: "The lifeless body of the deceased was found by the road side on Thursday morning which gave impression that she might had been hit by a hitand- run vehicle but we are not certain on the real cause yet. Since then we have been appealing to the students to be patient with us to do our investigation on the matter." In his reaction, the Head of the Protocol and Public Relations Unit of the institution, Mr. Adegbenro Adebajo, described it as sad and unfortunate. He noted that the students did not protest to block the expressway but only observed a candle light procession in honour of the departed colleague.

He said: "The victim died as a result of injuries sustained when she was knocked down on the expressway by a vehicle. "But the students did not protest, they held a candle light procession to mourn their departed colleague and it was closely monitored by the officials of Students' Affairs Division to ensure that the peace was not breached in any way. "But at some point, the students converged on the very spot