

Soldiers Accused of Killing Students in Akwa Ibom

Akwa Ibom State Polytechnic, Ikot Osura in Ikot Ekpene Local Government Area of the state has been shut following the reported killing of three students by soldiers drafted to the institution to quell protest by the students last Wednesday.

Incidentally, the alleged killing of the students came less than 24 hours after the state government gave a shoot on sight order to security operatives in the state over political clashes at Ikot Ekpene and Uyo.

Sources at the State Polytechnic told Thisday yesterday that the students were

From Okon Bassey in Uyo

on peaceful protest over the kidnapping of the Rector of institution, Dr. Sylvester Akpan last week when soldiers came to stop the demonstration.

It was learnt that in the process, live bullets were fired killing three students with four others including female students left in critical condition rushed to the hospital for medical aid.

The development has completely paralysed academic activities in the school as the school authority was forced to send lecturers and students home pending return of nor-

malcy.

A source who didn't want his name mentioned said, "Somebody may have been responsible for ordering armed personnel to open fire on armless students which could degenerate into the kind of situation in Libya."

A student said, "while the protest was on, the soldiers arrived and violently attacked us even when we tried to run into our houses in Ikot Osura. One of us, Josephin in the Department of Business Management was shot dead".

Another student said the soldiers combed their rooms, dragged them out. I was beaten until I fainted and was brought to the hospital."