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## Nigeria: Protest in Ebonyi Over Death of Medical Student

**Vanguard (Lagos)**  
**5 August 2008**

Posted to the web 5 August 2008

Dennis Agbo  
Abakaliki

**VANGUARD**

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EBONYI state capital, Abakaliki was yesterday barricaded from all corners by students of Ebonyi state University who protested death of a third year medical student, Celestine Mbam, who was smashed to death by a commercial bus while returning from a church service on Sunday.

Students took over the entire city, early Monday morning in bonfires, obstructed traffics and made both inter and intra-city movements very hectic.

They moved in large numbers to cause destructions especially at the motor park of a particular mass transit that knocked down the commercial motorcyclist, Okada, which the late Mbam was returning from church with, at the popular presco junction in Abakaliki.

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Not less than three vehicles and several properties worth millions of naira were also destroyed in the episode that created traffic hold up to Ezillo, a war-torn city 30 kilometers away along Enugu-Abakaliki road.

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A journalist, Godwin Aliuna was also cut in the cross fire and received beatings of his life while losing his Practical Steel camera, Nokia Flip handset as well as an undisclosed amount of money to the rampaging students.

The students wielded cutlasses, clubs and green leaves, attacking motorists at random. Travelers were stranded because all the Mass Transit terminals closed shops apparently in fear of being attacked. The protests paralyzed business and government activities as civil servants had to even trek to their offices since both taxi cabs and Okada riders could not find any clear route to ply.

One of the protesting students that spoke to newsmen but pleaded anonymity said that they were enraged because of "the seeming government insensitivity to the plights of the students especially as it affects our plea that something should be done on that road. There is hardly any week that passes that an accident does not occur on that road and our concern is that most of the accidents must involve students.

"We are not ready to continue with that type of situation. Now, one of the brightest medical students is involved and government wants us to fold our hands and continue to watch the scenario. This young man has been struggling with life, trains himself in school only to be caught down in his prime," the student lamented.

Continuing, the student pleaded with government to immediately construct either a major roundabout, Flyover Bridge or at least a pedestrian bridge to serve as check to the incessant accidents.

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State Commissioner of Police, Kachi Udeoji pleaded with the rampaging students to sheath and promised to compel government construct even if it is immediate bumps on the road as an interim measure.



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