

# Students, residents feel the strike pain

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**KAMPALA.** Chaos rocked Makerere University campus and its surroundings yesterday during the ongoing student strike over tuition increment.

Journalists covering the protests and students without the university identification cards or admission letters were blocked from accessing the campus as the siege by security forces intensified and the strike escalated to the outskirts.

The journalists invited to attend the university management press conference

were either picked from the main gate by police officers or used other entrances into the university.

Entry was strictly by identification or proof of official invitation.

Some students were seen stranded at the various university gates and seemingly confused.

The university was largely deserted as most students vacated the campus for fear of security brutality or being arrested in lecture rooms.

Police deployed heavily inside and outside the university, creating an atmosphere of fear and awe.

Riot police roamed

Kikoni, Kikumi Kikumi and other neighbouring suburbs of the university. Police lobbed tear gas canisters to disperse the protesting students, who had blocked Sir Apollo Kaggwa Road.

Several security check points were mounted around the university.

As students protested, residents felt the pain.

They sneezed and choked as tear gas entered their nostrils.

Traders closed their shops and residents locked themselves inside their houses or fled their homes in fear.

The university management had invited student leaders for talks over the tuition policy yesterday but the meeting didn't take off after it became rowdy, forcing police to kick out the guild leaders.