Queens College alumni meet over sexual assault by teacher

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he Old Girls Association of Queens’ College, Lagos has confirmed that the school is conducting an inquiry into allegations of sexual assault levelled against one of its teachers, Mr. Olaseni Oshifala.  
  
A parent, Mrs. Chinenye Okoye, had on Saturday alleged that Oshifala, a Biology teacher living on the school premises, had sexually assaulted her daughter, a JSS 2 pupil.  
  
According to Okoye, efforts to rein in the teacher, including a visit to the school, were unsuccessful.  
  
She also alleged that her findings revealed that Oshifala enjoyed a good relationship with one Mrs. Kayode, one of the Vice-Principals of the school.  
  
Efforts by our correspondents to reach the principal of the school, Dr. Lami Amodu, proved abortive as she did not respond to several calls and text messages sent to her lines.  
  
Oshifala also remained silent amid the controversy, as his only identifiable social media account on Instagram remained private as of 9.30pm when this report was filed.  
  
Okoye’s allegation, which went viral online on Saturday, read, “My daughter is in JSS2, second term at Queen’s College. During their visiting day of the first term, she complained to me that there is a teacher, Mr. Oshifala, who has been harassing her and other students.  
  
“However, two weeks later, on Thursday, she called me late in the night and she was crying bitterly. I could barely hear what she was saying until after I had calmed her down.  
  
“She told me that this same Mr. Oshifala, who by the way lives in the boarding house area, had cornered her on the way back from relieving herself just before lights out.  
  
“She told me that he called her and she thought that he wanted to punish her for leaving her dorm room when it was almost lights out.”  
  
According to Okoye, when her daughter got closer to Oshifala, he was smelling of alcohol and she ran away from him.  
  
“But he ran after her and tried to kiss her, while touching her private parts. She started screaming and then students started coming out so he left her and pretended to punish her.  
  
“I got to the school first thing the next day I went to the Vice-Principal, Mrs. Kayode, and complained to her about my daughter’s issue. Kayode and another Vice-Principal, Mrs Njoku, were both in the room when I entered.  
  
“From the looks on their faces, I knew my daughter was telling the truth. Njoku soon left and it was just me and Kayode. She then told me (and these are her words) that even though my daughter was telling the truth, Oshifala was her man and he did a lot of work for her and there was nothing me or anyone could do to move him out of the school. She also turned around to threaten me to go to Abuja to report; nothing would happen,” she added.  
  
Efforts to reach Oshifala failed on Saturday. However, blogger, Olori Supergirl took a screen shot of his Facebook page. The teacher said he was innocent, adding, “This is fiction, this must be from my hater. I don’t live in the school compound, I don’t drink and I don’t teach junior school.  
  
“Please disregard this dubious story.”  
  
In a message on the official website of the QCOGA, its President, Shirley Okharedia, said a meeting would be held today (Sunday) to address the allegations.  
  
Okharedia said, “Concerning the disturbing allegations of sexual harassment levelled on a QC teacher by a parent, the executive committee became aware of the matter as it broke on the internet. We immediately contacted QC authorities.  
  
“May I respectfully request that we patiently await the outcome of the report of the investigations being done right now by the PQC and her team. We will report back to you. Please rest assured that no stone will be left unturned to get to the bottom of this.  
  
“Our school, our heritage we must protect. In the meantime, kindly make out time to attend our parent body general meeting holding tomorrow at 3 pm or send your set representatives. I can only plead for your patience and prayers for a successful outcome that will reassure us all of the commitment of our dear QCOGA, the school and the PTA in keeping our girls safe and secure.”  
  
Meanwhile, the National President, Nigeria Union of Teachers, Mr. Michael Alogba- Olukoya, has condemned the incident.  
  
Calling on the management of the school not to shield the teacher, Alogba- Olukoya said teaching remains a noble profession.  
  
“The school is not within our jurisdiction but if the parent’s version is true, the school management should ensure that justice is done.  
  
“It is morally and ethically wrong for any teacher to assault a student and I expect the management if the school to protect the interest of the student if the story is indeed true,” he said.  
  
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