

Crash in Yar'adua's convoy, one killed

A presidential security detail died while four others were injured in Abuja yesterday when one of the vehicles in the convoy of

By AbdulFattah Olajide

President Umaru Musa Yar'adua crashed at Lugbe junction, along Airport Ex-

pressway.

The dead security detail, identified as Mr. Suleiman Adebayo, and his injured colleagues who are currently re-

ceiving treatment at the National Hospital, were part of the team of State House officials who went to receive the President at the Nnamdi

Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja on his arrival from the United States at about 9.40am.

The accident occurred

when the tyre of the Mercedes Benz car conveying the security details back to the Presidential Villa, and driven by the late Adebayo,

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burst at Lugbe Junction.

A statement later yesterday said "the Presidency announces with deep sorrow the death of a security detail, Mr. Suleiman Adebayo, in a motor accident along Abuja Airport Expressway earlier today."

According to the statement, signed by the Special Adviser to the President Yar'adua on Communications Mr. Olusegun Adeniyi, "Immediately the accident happened, the Chief Personal Physician to the President and other officials in the con-

voy stopped to convey the five victims to the National Hospital, where Adebayo was pronounced dead."

Adeniyi said the president ordered the release of a presidential aircraft yesterday afternoon to convey the remains of Adebayo to his hometown for burial according to Islamic rites.

He said the president also directed officials of the Nigerian Embassy in Saudi Arabia to convey his condolences to Adebayo's widow and mother, both of whom are currently in Mecca on pilgrimage.