

3 journalists killed in Oshiomhole's convoy crash

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Written by Vincent Egunyanga, Benin Sunday, 29 April 2012
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Edo State Governor Adams Oshiomhole escaped death yesterday when his motor convoy had a fatal road accident along the Ora-Ihievbe –Warrake Road in Owan East Local Government Area of the state.

Journalists were however not so lucky as three of them in the convoy died on the spot. The journalists were Olatunji Jacobs, reporter and George Okojie cameraman with the Independent Television (ITV). The third deceased journalist is Fidelis Ohani of Africa Independent Television (AIT).

Other journalists in the vehicle who are currently in critical condition are Bright Osifo of the Edo Broadcasting Service; George Enofe, a Government House photographer; David Acha, a cameraman with the Nigerian Observer; and Paul Ezenwa who is a cameraman with DBN. Others are Rosemary Obayuwana with Bronze Fm, officials of the State Ministry of Information whose names were given as Asika, Emaku and Odeh and an official of the National Orientation Agency, Mrs Obamogie.

Chief Security Detail of Governor Oshiomhole and other security personnel are also in critical condition. As at press

time, survivors were receiving treatment at the University of Benin Teaching Hospital. A Government House source said the Toyota bus carrying the Press Crew, in an attempt to avoid some bad portions of the road and an on-coming Mercedes Benz lorry, left the governor's convoy, skidded off the road and crashed.

Oshiomhole was on his way to Warrake, a stronghold and power house of the PDP gubernatorial running mate, Hon Johnson Abolagba to receive PDP decampees who were said to be waiting in a public arena as at that time the crash happened.

News of the crash was said to have devastated Oshiomhole who expressed deep regrets and shock, describing the dead as loyal, hard working and committed to their duties. The governor, who ordered that the wounded be rushed to nearest hospital for treatment, was said to be in low spirits.

Officers and men of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) confirmed the deaths. The PDP governorship candidate in the July 14, 2012 governorship polls, Major General Charles Airhiavbere (rtd), on hearing the sad news, observed a minute silence for the repose of the souls of the deceased journalists.

It would be recalled that both the Personal Assistant and Chief Press Secretary to the Governor, Messrs Gregory Haruna and Chris Nwachukwu died in an auto crash along the Benin-Auchi Road on December 13 2008 on their way to attend a wedding.

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