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Taxi driver dies resisting police arrest

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By Terkula Igidi | Publish Date: Apr 8 2016 5:00AM

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Cab drivers and others protest after an accident allegedly caused by a policeman led to the death of a taxi driver at Arab Junction in Utako, Abuja yesterday.

The driver of a green taxi with registration number RBC 816 XP early yesterday died in an auto crash at the Berger Roundabout in Abuja

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city centre while trying to resist police arrest.

The driver, who was heading towards the nearby Jabbi, had stopped to pick passengers at an unauthorised location where a “No Parking” signpost was mounted. An on-duty policeman saw him and tried to arrest him but the driver attempted to speed off. The policeman then managed to jump into the taxi and both started struggling with the steering wheel.



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The driver moved off on high speed but lost control of the vehicle and hit the road embankment, staggered into a palm tree which it uprooted and somersaulted, crashing into the other side of the road.

Our reporter who witnessed the crash said the driver lost consciousness and efforts to revive him by some of his colleagues who rushed to the scene failed as he died moments later. The policeman survived and escaped immediately after crawling out of the badly damaged taxi.

A chaotic scene ensued as other taxi drivers blocked the adjoining Obafemi Awolowo Way with their taxis and the palm tree which the taxi earlier knocked down.

Traffic flow on the ever busy expressway was impeded as the protesting taxi drivers shouted in Pidgin English: “Police own don too much, we must die here today.”

Another crash occurred there when a Honda Pilot SUV heading towards Berger from the Arab Junction, rammed into a parked Volkswagen Golf car.

The driver of the Golf car, Mohammed Saba, who sustained a minor injury on one of his left fingers, said he was waiting for somebody when the Honda Pilot hit him. A team of policemen arrived but failed to disperse the angry crowd immediately. The FCT police command spokesman, Anjuguri Manzah, could not respond when contacted before press time.

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