

Army spokesman, Giwa-Amu, dies in auto crash

• Odili, Osunbor, Omehia, others mourn



• *Giwa-Amu*

ANOTHER highway tragedy yesterday took the life of the Director of Army Public Relations Brig.-Gen. Solomon Giwa-Amu at Suleja, on the Abuja-Kaduna road in Niger State. He was travelling to Jaji on an official assignment.

Giwa-Amu's death was announced in a statement by the Army Headquarters signed by Lt.-Col. M.M. Yerima.

The one-paragraph statement reads: "The

*From Madu Onuorah
(Abuja)*

Chief of Army Staff, Lt.- Gen. Luka Yusuf, regrets to announce the death of Director of Army Public Relations, Brig.-Gen. Solomon Giwa-Amu. He died today (yesterday) as a result of injuries sustained following a road traffic accident along the Abuja-Kaduna Road. Burial arrangements will be announced by the family later."

The Guardian learnt that Giwa-Amu, who was the aide-de-camp (ADC) to Chief Olusegun Obasanjo as president from 1999 to 2003, was on his way to the Armed Forces Command and Staff College (AFCSC) Jaji, Kaduna State, to deliver a lecture to the Army Wing of the joint

Continued on Page 2

Army spokesman dies in auto crash

Continued from Page 1

service institution when the accident occurred.

According to sources, the accident happened before 7 a.m. yesterday. Giwa-Amu was travelling along with six others in the new Toyota Hiace DAPR Welfare Bus when the vehicle had a burst tyre. While the driver was struggling to steady the bus, it collided with on-coming bigger vehicle. The late director was reported to be sitting behind the driver. He was the only one who died in the accident and was said to have sustained injuries on the head.

Three others in the vehicle sustained major

injuries while the others had minor injuries. They were all evacuated to the National Hospital, Abuja, for treatment.

At his residence at the Stallion Estate, Wuse, Abuja, sympathisers have been trooping to pay their respects to the late officer.

His toddler last son and daughter, seeming oblivious of the import of the death, were seen moving up and down the residence. The son intermittently went to the official portrait of the father in his Army uniform and rank sitting on a glass table, with two condolence registers in front. He went to the table again, opening one of the condolence registers. He read the contents briefly and made his way to

leave again. A photographer asked him to wait and look at the picture and the registers as the photographer clicked away.

The boy left, obviously surprised at the people clustering at their house. People clustered in groups, visitors coming and going. People wore long faces. Everywhere was silent. His wife was held upstairs, away from the crowd streaming in and out.

Among the early callers at the residence of the late Giwa-Amu were the former Governors of Rivers State and their wives, Dr. and Justice Peter Odili and Mr. and Mrs. Celestine Omehia and the Minister of State for Defence, Mrs. Fidelia Njeze.