

# Two Soldiers Feared Dead In Maiduguri

From **Njadvara Musa**, Maiduguri

**T**WO soldiers attacked to the Joint Task Force (JTF) were on Friday feared dead in an auto crash. The accident occurred when driver of the military patrol vehicle attempted to avoid crashing a tricycle on Airport Road at the Borno Transport Corporation bus terminus. In the process, the vehicle veered off the road and hit a tree.

An eyewitness, one Ibrahim

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Umaru narrated: "The patrol vehicle had attempted to avoid hitting the tricycle and in the process veered off the road. It was as if the driver lost control."

Umaru disclosed that everybody along the road except motorists ran into different directions in confusion that followed the crash.

He told *The Guardian*: "You know there are JTF soldiers

around the area. They came out immediately to condone off the road and refused access to the scene of the accident. The soldiers were very angry; they Didn't want anybody to see the victims. But because I was near-by, I saw two bodies of soldiers evacuated from the patrol vehicle while one sustained injuries in his head and arms."

A military officer who preferred anonymity con-

firmed the accident. "It is true that there was an accident and that soldiers sustained injuries. But I can't ascertain the degree of the injuries since I am not a medical personnel. But I can tell you that they didn't die," he said.

Field Operations Officer of the JTF, Col Victor Ebhaleme, who said the accident was as a result of a mechanical fault, also denied claim that the victims died.