Tanker conductor, others feared killed over alleged refusal by driver to pay bribe

By Odita Sunday

NAVAL personnel was yesterday accused of causing the death of a truck conductor whose driver allegedly refused to pay N500 bribe to have access to Kirikiri terminal where they load petroleum products.

The officer's action was said to have caused a petrol tanker to ram into a commercial motorcyclist, also known as *Okada*, at the foot of the bridge at Kirikiri area of Lagos, killing two persons, including the motorcyclist, on the spot.

Some eyewitnesses have blamed the Naval personnel for the unfortunate incident, alleging that the Naval personnel were in the habit of collecting N500 as toll from each tanker driver before allowing them access to the tank farms.

Abdul Isa, a tanker driver, alleged that the driver of the truck was trying to run away from Naval personnel who were demanding for N500 from him, saying that in an attempt to flee from the approaching security personnel, the driver rammed into the *Okada* rider and his passenger, killing them on the spot.

Another witness said that the truck driver had parked by the side of the bridge and preventing other road users access to the road.

He said: "In an attempt to flee from an approaching Naval officer who had earlier warned him to stay away, and without knowing that his conductor was at the back of the truck, ran over him. The truck later smashed into another car parked by the side of the bridge before it rammed into a street-light."

Meanwhile, Naval authority has refuted the allegation, saying: "The truck actual had break failure and in an attempt to bring the vehicle to a halt as it descended the bridge, ran over the conductor of the truck who was using log to halt the movement."

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By Sunda Ezuka

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