BLACK DAY IN OSOGBO: FIVE DIE, SIX INJURED IN AUTO CRASH

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What could have resulted in a serious crisis between commercial motorcycle operators otherwise known as Okada and Tokunbo motor dealers in Osogbo, Osun State capital, was averted by security operatives at the scene of an auto crash, which occurred along Gbongan-Osogbo Road, on Monday, 17 June 2013. The accident claimed five lives while six persons were injured.

The accident, which involved a smuggled black Toyota Camry car, a commercial mini bus otherwise called Korope and a commercial motorcycle, occurred at the Heritage Hotel junction

According to an eyewitness, the unregistered black Toyota Camry car just smuggled into the state from Cotonou, left a car wash to deliver smuggled rice, assorted drinks and other food items to their owners when the incident occurred.

It was gathered that the driver of the Toyota Camry car, in an attempt to slow down for a commercial motorcyclist to cross the road, mistakenly pressed the acceleration pedal and thereby increased the speed. In the process, the car veered off the road, crossed to the other lane and crashed into an oncoming bus and another Okada carrying three passengers.

According to the eyewitness, all the three persons on the Okada, one passenger in the mini bus and one person standing on the roadside were killed on the spot. One of the victims was preparing for his wedding that was to take place some weeks from now, going by the invitation card found on him.

As at the time of filing in this report, the driver of the car could not be found, as he was said to have fled the scene of the accident in midst of the ensuing confusion.

The accident, which occurred around 4.40p.m, when workers were returning from work, caused a traffic gridlock on the road, as men of the state Fire Service, the O' Ambulance, men of Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps, Special Marshals and Red Cross carried out rescue operation.

The injured persons were rushed to Ladoke Akintola University of Technology (Lautech) Teaching Hospital, Osogbo, and State Hospital Asubiaro.

Bags of rice and other food items including assorted drinks littered the road.

The disappearance of the driver of the car allegedly angered other commercial motorcyclists who had mobilised to unleash terror on Tokunbo motor dealers around. On getting of the planned attack, the Tokunbo motor dealers hurriedly closed down their shops and sought safety before the intervention of security operatives.

Speaking on the development, the State Sector Commander of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Mr. Imoh Etuk, confirmed the casualties, attributing the accident to high speed.

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