

Man, 57 crushed to death in Ibadan

A 57 year-old man, Okunola Salako was crushed to death in Ibadan, last weekend by a vehicle allegedly belonging to a wife of former Governor Rashidi Ladoja of Oyo State.

The deceased, a commercial Okada operator was carrying a passenger when the driver of the 4-Runner Jeep with registration number PA 44 LND, ran into the motorcycle at Are Avenue Junction, Bodija, crushing the victim to death.

According to an eyewitness account, the woman was receiving a phone call while driving when she apparently lost concentration and rammed into the Okada operational base beside Tantalizer and hit Salako and his passenger who had just taken off from the base.

The remains of Okunola

From: Oseheye Okwuofu, Ibadan

Salako were taken to University College Hospital (UCH) mortuary by members of the Association of Okada Riders, Bodija, Ibadan.

The commercial motorcyclists claimed the woman was a wife of Senator Ladoja, but the Chief Press Secretary to the ex-governor, Mr. Lanre Latinwo denied it, saying the woman in question is a younger sister to the ex-governor's wife.

"We were surprised when some members of the State Security Service (SSS) and some policemen stormed the scene of the gory accident and took the wife of Ladoja away, thinking that they were taking her to the police station to

'We cannot suffer in vain. We need justice,

avoid been lynched. But we were wrong when we later found out that she was walking the streets freely without any arrest", a relation of Salako said.

"It is very unfair and inhuman. Up till now, there is no message, or any step to appease those who suffered loss. The police have refused to make any arrest. We have been to the police station, all they kept telling

us was that the driver could not be found and she was there walking the streets. That is why we are calling for justice, we cannot suffer in vain. We need justice," the man said.

When *The Nation* visited the Bodija Police Station, the said 4-Runner Jeep involved in the accident was seen packed at the station, but after enquiries, it was learnt that the driver was never brought to the station.

The Oyo State Police Command spokesman, Mr. Femi Okanlawon confirmed that one Okunola Salako died in the accident, but he said he was unaware that the driver was one of Ladoja's wives.

The Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) said: "When the accident occurred, it was not that the police did not want to make

arrest. What happened was that the woman who drove the Jeep was unconscious and she had to be rushed to hospital for medical attention. She is still in the hospital. But I can tell you that investigation is continuing on the case".

Latinwo said it was not true the driver of the ill-fated Jeep was the wife of his principal.

He however admitted that the Jeep's driver is a younger sister to one of Ladoja's wives.

"No, it is not true that Ladoja's wife drove the Jeep. The driver is a younger sister to Ladoja's wife. They only want to politicise the issue, Who told them that she is Ladoja's wife. Let them tell us the name if they are sure the driver is Ladoja's wife", Latinwo said.

Laws on land for-