

Youths block Lokoja-Abuja highway as vehicle kills scavenger

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THE Lokoja-Abuja highway was, in the early hours of Sunday, blocked by youths protesting the killing of a middle-aged man by a motorist.

According to an eyewitness, the incident occurred around 6.30 a.m. between the Phase 3 junction and the Federal Housing Bus Stop, Kubwa, a suburb of Abuja, when the deceased,

a scavenger, known as 'Mai Bowler', who was returning from a nearby refuse dump was trying to cross to the other side of the highway and was knocked down.

It was gathered that the driver of the unidentified vehicle sped off, while other scavengers nearby quickly mobilised to save the life of the victim.

It was learnt, however, that on getting to the nearby office of the National Emergency Agency (NEMA), located

on Kubwa, the officers on duty were said not to rise to assist the victim to the hospital due to "lack of water and fuel" for operation.

Eyewitness also said that efforts to reach out to other agencies, such as the police, Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) and the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) proved abortive, as the only police van at the scene was without fuel for movement.

Following the development,

the victim was said to have died, leading to the angry scavengers and other youths around blocking the highway.

Addressing the crowd, Director of Communications, Arewa Youth Congress, Alhaji Saliu Dantata Mahmood, appealed to them to be calm.

Alhaji Mahmood told newsmen that he had contacted one of the aides to the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory, Mallam Mohammed Bello, over the incident.