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Helicopter **crew** feared dead **in** early morning crash

By Tunde Odesola, Osogbo and Oyetunji Abioye

Saturday, 30 Jul 2011

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The crew members of an unidentified

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helicopter were **feared** killed on Friday **morning** on Oke Obanla Hill in Ikonifin village, Osun State.

Son of the head, Fulani community in Ikonifin, Ola-Oluwa Local Government Area, Mr. Abubakar Adamu, who confirmed the development, said the **helicopter** hit a large hill in the Osun State Government Reserve.

He said, “Helicopters are not a common sight in Ikonifin; so, when we saw the **helicopter** and heard the sound, everybody was apprehensive, thinking that it could fall down. It was making a very loud sound.

“It was around 9 am and it was very foggy. The helicopter’s noise persisted and all of a sudden, we heard a loud bang and the noise subsided. The helicopter’s visibility might have been affected by the fog.

“The **helicopter** must have hit the hill. The hill is very high. It is a reserve, where hunters hunt games.”

Adamu said his father informed the traditional ruler of Ikonifin about the development, adding that the crashed **helicopter** and its occupants had been found.

“People were afraid to go in search of the **helicopter** because they felt they would be arrested or accused of plotting the **crash**. Later in the day, some people went into the reserve but they have not been able to locate the **helicopter**,” he said.

Osun State Commissioner of Police, Mr. Solomon Olusegun, in a telephone interview, said the police rescue team would be dispatched to comb the reserve.

Head of Operation, Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps, Osun State Command, Mr. Olaniyi Babalola, said his men were on the way to the scene of the incident.

He said, “We have been informed of the **crash** and we are on the way to the scene. We must get to the spot of the **crash** this night, no matter what.

“We learnt that about 10km to the spot, there was no accessibility. But we are going in and we will get to the

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spot.”

The Director-General, Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority, Dr. Harold Demuren, at about 8 pm on Friday, said the **helicopter** had not been found.

Demuren, in a telephone interview with one of our correspondents, said that the **helicopter**, which left Maryland, Lagos, was heading for Ilorin, Kwara State.

He said, “We are worried about the situation of the **helicopter**, which left Maryland this **morning** and is yet to be seen in Ilorin. We have dispatched our men to go in search of the **helicopter**. There are three people on board: the captain and two other people. We are still searching, and we hope that reports will get to us soon.”

Comments :

- may God help us in dis country no ambulance, firefighters etc...they are still searching.. how many hours to the **crash**

Posted by: kayoode , on Saturday, July 30, 2011

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- It was shamful to mention that a country like nigeria today can not boast of an effecient rescure teams, in terms of natural disaster,for [e.g]look at this incident now, where FAAN cannot do anything atall.Only what they known is to extracting[n2.500] from passengers everyday,a very big sharm to them. Federal govt. have being budjecting some huge amount of moneny for them anually,but what happerns,they shared this money among themselves. They should not forget that,siner's payment is **dead**..

Posted by: OGBUEFI , on Saturday, July 30, 2011

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- Even information is now freely available over the internet. people have refused to educate themselves. Where is the SAR capability, NCAA holding prayer vigil not using new ATS(, no TRACON is designed to spot all object in any

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