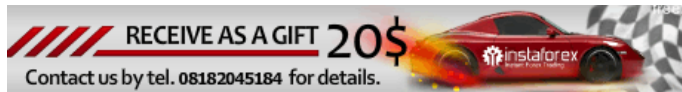


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Accident: Three NUJ officials die, 10 injured

AUGUST 3, 2013 BY TUNDE ODESOLA, OSOGBO 9 COMMENTS

Three members of the Nigeria Union of Journalists lost their lives in an auto accident, which occurred at Osu area of the Ilesha-Ibadan highway, on Friday evening.

Osun State NUJ Secretary, Mr. Bamigbola Gbolagunte, who disclosed the incident to our correspondent on the telephone, said the victims included the National Financial Secretary of the union, Mr. Adolphus Okonkwo; the NUJ Chairman, Radio Nigeria, Ibadan Network Centre, Mr. Tunde Oluwanike; and an official of the Nigerian Television Authority, Tejuoso, Lagos, Kafayat Odunsi.

The victims were in a bus coming from Abuja en-route Lagos before the fatality, which had 10 other members of the union onboard injured.

It was gathered that the bus bearing the deceased and injured journalists had a blowout, which caused it to somersault several times and veered off the road into the bush.

Oluwanike and some other journalists belonging to the Oyo NUJ chapter were to alight in Ibadan, about 45 kilometres to the scene, before the unfortunate incident.

Gbolagunte said the victims were rushed to Osun State General Hospital, Ilesha, before they were referred to Ladoko Akintola Teaching Hospital, Osogbo, adding that the injured were responding to treatment.

Oyo NUJ Chairman, Mr Gbenga Opatodun, who survived the accident, said, "We were coming from Abuja where we held a meeting and by the time our vehicle got to Osu area, the rear tyre burst and the vehicle veered off the road before we somersaulted about eight to nine times and finally crashed into the bush.

"It was a terrible experience because we lost three of our members in the accident. The rest of us, who were involved in the accident, survived by the grace of God."

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