

# Nation, ThisDay men in auto crash in Ibadan

Olufemi Atoyebi,  
Ibadan

**R**EPRESENTATIVES of *The Nation* and *ThisDay* newspapers in Ibadan, Oyo State, were involved in a fatal auto crash in the ancient city on the New Year day.

The sales representatives of *The Nation*, Timothy Adeosun, and *ThisDay*, Juwon Babalola, had the accident after attending the New Year eve vigil in Ibadan.

Adeosun, 23, lost his life in the accident, while Babalola sustained serious injury.

Babalola is currently receiving treatment at the Accident and Emergency Ward of the University College Hospital, Ibadan, while Adeosun's corpse had been deposited at the teaching hospital's mortuary.

Eyewitnesses said the accident occurred around 1.25am when a brown Acura 3.2TL saloon car, with Lagos number plate, FKJ 894 DC, driven by a young man, left its lane on Oke Padre/Mokola Road, and hit the victims who were on a dispatch motorcycle belonging to *ThisDay* newspaper.

The impact was said to have killed Adeosun immediately, while Babalola sustained multiple fracture.

It was said the victims had just left Salvation Army Church and were returning to their Mokola home.

One of the witnesses, who gave his name simply as Adeyara, said, "The driver was overtaking another vehicle



• The vehicle and the motorcycle involved in the incident. Photos: Olufemi Atoyebi and NAN

on the road before hitting the motorcycle."

The Divisional Transport Officer at Mokola Police Station, Oyelowo Asimiyu, told our correspondent that the driver of the car was arrested at the scene.

Chairman of the Newspapers Distributors Association of Nigeria, Mr. Babatunde Abimbola, said he received a call five minutes after the

accident, describing the death of Adeosun as shocking.

He said, "Sympathisers at the scene offered assistance to take the two victims to a nearby hospital but they were referred to UCH after they were rejected by about five hospitals. They were eventually admitted at UCH after much pleas."

Abimbola added that the incident affected distribution of newspapers for the day as

vendors grieved over the death of Adeosun.

Chief Correspondent of the *Nation* in Ibadan, Bisi Oladele, expressed sadness on the incident, praying that God would grant the victim's family the fortitude to bear the loss.

He also prayed for quick recovery of the injured salesman.

"Our thoughts are with the Adeosun family at this critical

time. Clearly, they raised a responsible, reliable, meek and a promising man. His contributions to the company would be remembered always." Oladele said.

## Oyo frees 21 prisoners

Olufemi Atoyebi,  
Ibadan

**I**N commemoration of the New Year, the Oyo State Governor, Abiola Ajimobi, on Wednesday granted amnesty to five condemned prisoners.

He also granted a total release and state pardon to four convicts who were on life imprisonment, as well as amnesty to 12 other convicts who were on various terms of imprisonment for misdemeanours.

The State Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, Mr. Ojo Adebayo, announced

## Gunmen abduct ex-commissioner's six-year-old child

Simon Utebor

**S**OME yet-to-be-identified gunmen on New Year Day kidnapped an unnamed six-year-old son of the former Bayelsa State Commissioner for Local Government and Community Development, Godknows Powell.

The victim was said to be kidnapped at Etegwe, Yenagoa, Bayelsa State capital, while

returning from the New Year Eve church service.

The news of the incident had generated apprehension among indigenes of Agudama-Epie in Yenagoa where the Powells hail from.

It was learnt that the victim was in company with his mother when the gunmen accosted them about 1am and

whisked the boy away to an unknown destination.

Investigation showed that the boy might have been kidnapped for a ransom.

Powell served as commissioner in the past administration of Timipre Sylva and also served as a former Chairman of Yenagoa Local Government Area during the Diepreye Alamieyeseigha government in the state.

harm. It involved two suspects that fought at TBS. Both were injured but one was stabbed in the stomach. They were rushed to the hospital where the stabbed suspect was admitted.

"However, the other suspect (Baba) is being detained at the Lion Building Police Station. Investigations are ongoing."