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One feared dead as police drive against traffic

JULY 17, 2014 BY AFEEZ HANAFI 1 COMMENT

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One person has been feared dead after a tricycle hit a Toyota Camry on Wednesday morning on the Berger-Agege Road, Lagos State.

The victim, who was a passenger in the tricycle, was reportedly trapped in the accident and could not be rescued on time.

The accident was said to have occurred as the rider of the tricycle, identified simply as Jimoh, tried to evade an oncoming police van which drove against the traffic (one way).

Although the division to which the policemen inside the van belonged could not be ascertained as of press time, it was learnt that the vehicle was marked, Special Anti-Robbery Squad.

Our correspondent, who visited the scene of the incident around 11am, observed that the tricycle, marked LSR 831 QB, had a broken windscreen.

The Toyota Camry had number plate, Lagos AAA 156 BU.

An eyewitness, Johnson Franco, told our correspondent that the victim, who he described as an old man, fainted, while two others sustained injuries.

He berated the police for breaking the traffic rule and causing the accident.

He said, "It happened around 10am. Only the rider was not injured. A man lost consciousness immediately, while other passengers were bleeding.

"This is a clear case of lawlessness from people who are supposed to protect the lives of the citizens. Actually, there was traffic jam on the road, but taking one way should not have been an option. They even drove off without showing any concern for the victims."

Another eyewitness, who did not want his name in print, described the driver of the van as being reckless, adding that he regretted not capturing the identity of one of the policemen.

A policeman, who was controlling the traffic in the area, also confirmed the incident to our correspondent.

He, however, said he did not know their (the policemen) whereabouts.

The tricycle driver, who met our correspondent at the scene of the accident, said the elderly victim had been taken to a hospital by officials of the Federal Road Safety Corps.

He said, "I did not know how I came out uninjured. It was like the policemen were coming from an operation because some suspects were inside their van.

"FRSC officials rushed the man to a hospital. I am going to pick the tricycle now at the Grammar School Police Station for repair since the policemen who should be held responsible for the accident have fled. I really thank God for my life."

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An official of the corps attached to the area said the victim was taken to the Lagos State Accident and Emergency Centre. The receptionists at the centre, however, denied receiving such patient.

The Deputy Police Public Relations Officer, Lelma Kolle, when contacted on the incident said he would get back to our correspondent, but had yet to do so as of press time.

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