

# Female driver crushes eight to death in Lagos

February 2, 2016

*Ilaje Road*

*64602*

**Samson Folarin and Olaleye Aluko**

Tragedy struck on Ilaje Road, in the Bariga area of Lagos State, after a female motorist in a LandCruiser Sport Utility Vehicle crushed eight pedestrians to death.

*PUNCH Metro* gathered that among the dead were a pregnant woman, two siblings, an old woman and a man returning from his place of work.

Several others were also said to have sustained varying degrees of injuries, including fractures and broken limbs in the Saturday incident which happened around 9pm.

Our correspondents gathered that the driver of the yet-to-be-identified woman had left the vehicle for her near Majok Filling Station on Ilaje Road and had left for his house.

The woman, said to be staying on Adebisi Street, had barely taken the wheels to drive the SUV home when the incident occurred.

The vehicle reportedly surged forward, crushing pedestrians and killing four of them on the spot.

A set of nine injured people were reportedly taken to the Gbagada General Hospital, among whom two died; while another set of seven casualties were later recovered.

It was learnt that two more corpses were found in the gutter on Sunday morning.

Angry youths were said to have gone to the scene and dragged the woman out of the SUV and beaten her up.

She was about to be lynched when some policemen from the Bariga Police Division intervened.

*PUNCH Metro* learnt that the suspect was to celebrate her birthday on Sunday and was going home to make preparations for the event before the incident.

When our correspondents visited the area on Monday, about 20 *okada* riders (motorcyclists) besieged the police station to demand the corpses of two of the people who were killed in the accident.

A resident, identified as Iya Oyinbo, said the vehicle seemed to have had a brake failure.

She said, "The woman was driven to the Majok Filling Station by her driver after which the man left for his house and the woman moved to the driver's seat to drive the vehicle home. What we saw was that the SUV suddenly surged forward and hit a pedestrian at the filling station.

"The vehicle also moved from there to hit some pedestrians by the roadside. It was three stationary faulty cars at the end of the Ilaje Road which eventually stopped the SUV.

"Four persons were crushed and they died instantly, including a woman, who was pregnant, and was taken inside a *Keke Napep*. On Sunday, two other hospitalised victims died."

Another witness, Raheem Banji, said the corpses of two motorcyclists were found the following morning in the gutter where the SUV had flung them.

He said, "There were two *okada* riders who fell inside a gutter on that day. It was on Sunday that we found them. After the accident, youths gathered and began to beat up the woman for being careless. The mob wanted to destroy the car, but for the arrival of the policemen who saved her."

A *Keke Marwa* driver, Laide Olakune, said he was lucky to have escaped, adding that his tricycle was badly damaged by the vehicle.

Olakunle said he was taking four passengers to the Ebute area, when the tricycle was hit and they all fell into the gutter.

“Although my tricycle was damaged, neither me nor any of my passengers sustained injuries. The police wanted to take away my tricycle as part of evidence, but I refused because I need to repair it and put it back on the road so I can make a living,” he said.

A police source said the female driver, who was rescued with injuries, was recuperating in a private hospital in the area.

He said, “The woman is wealthy, and she was to celebrate her birthday on Sunday. The mob stripped her to the underwear and beat her up. She is recuperating in a hospital; her husband has showed up at the police station.

“There was no pregnant woman in the incident. The victim had Fibroid, and looked as if she was pregnant. The police will invite the driver after her treatment.”

The spokesperson for the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority, Mahmud Hassan, said he was not aware of the incident.

He said, “The LASTMA officers on the ground said they did not see anything like that.”

The Police Public Relations Officer, SP Dolapo Badmos, confirmed the incident, adding that the matter was under investigation.

She said, “I am aware of the tragic incident. Three people died on the spot, while four others were in critical condition as of Sunday. We are investigating the case.”

***Copyright PUNCH.***

*All rights reserved. This material, and other digital content on this website, may not be reproduced, published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed in whole or in part without prior express written permission from PUNCH.*

**Contact: [editor@punchng.com](mailto:editor@punchng.com)**