

Truck crushes Imam, pupils to death during Jumat service

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Femi Makinde

Tragedy struck in Odeomu, Ayedaade Local Government Area of Osun State on Friday when a truck lost control, veered off the Osogbo-Ibadan Highway and crushed three pupils and two adults to death.

Our correspondent gathered that the accident, which occurred during the Jumat service at the Central Mosque, Odeomu, claimed the life of one of the Islamic clerics, Ismail Babalola, who was about entering the mosque.

Apart from the two adults killed, two others were reportedly injured as worshippers fled to escape being crushed to death. The truck was eventually brought to a halt when it hit a ditch and the perimeter fence of the mosque.

Residents of the town told our correspondent, who visited the scene of the accident on Saturday, that the driver of the truck immediately fled the scene having seen that he had killed some persons.

It was gathered that two of the pupils killed came third in their promotion examinations and were going to the mosque for the Jumat service when the accident claimed their lives.

The atmosphere at the house of one of the deceased, five-year-old Abdurasak Olodo, was tense. Sympathisers thronged the place to commiserate with the parents of the pupil.

The mother was still in shock when our correspondent visited the house. She was surrounded by a horde of sympathisers – friends and relatives – at her bedside.

The father of the pupil, Mr. Teslim Olodo, said he had taken the tragedy which befell his family as the will of Allah, who he said could not be questioned.