

Truck avoiding govt official kills tricycle rider in Imo

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•Scene of the incident Photo: Chidiebube Okeoma

Chidiebube Okeoma, Owerri

The Aba-Owerri Expressway was on Tuesday blocked by angry tricycle riders in Owerri, Imo State, who protested against the death of one of them.

The yet-to-be identified tricycle rider was crushed to death by a truck owned by BUA Company.

The tricycle rider was said to have been crushed to death by the driver of the truck on the Owerri-Port Harcourt Road, before the state chapter of the Nigeria Union of Journalists' office.

An eyewitness, Silas Okere, an employee of Owerri Capital Development Authority, told our correspondent at the accident scene that it was in a bid to escape men working for the Environmental Transformation Commission, an agency of the state government, that the truck crushed the rider.

According to Okere, the truck, with number plate, Jigawa KZR 217 ZT, veered off the road in a bid to avoid ENTRACO officials who were chasing him in a Toyota Siena vehicle.

The eyewitness said, "While the truck driver veered off the road, it rammed into the tricycle which was parked by the roadside. The rider was killed instantly.

"Immediately the accident occurred, the ENTRACO officials fled, while the driver of the truck, his conductor and his police escort equally fled, abandoning their truck which was loaded with 600 bags of cement."

Angered by the death of one of them, the tricycle riders reportedly stormed ENTRACO corporate office on Aba-Owerri Expressway.

They were, however, prevented from attacking the agency by policemen, led by the Owerri Area Commander, Francis Bassong, an Assistant Commissioner of Police.

The tricycle riders subsequently resorted to blocking the expressway, causing a gridlock and preventing pedestrian movement in the area.

The protesters called the state Governor, Rochas Okorocha, to sanitise the commission.

The managing Director of ENTRACO, Jeff Nwoha, said although he regretted the death of the tricycle operator, his death was not caused by his men.