

Anambra tax collectors allegedly kill driver

Tony Okafor, Awka

A truck driver, Michael Okorie, has been reportedly killed by suspected revenue collectors at Bridgehead, Onitsha, Anambra State.

The 25-year-old was said to have been pursued by the revenue collectors on Sunday, as he lost control of his vehicle and crashed into a concrete barricade in the area.

PUNCH Metro learnt that the incident infuriated some youths in the area, who blocked the highway and set bonfires on the road.

The victim, it was gathered, was rushed to a nearby hospital where he was confirmed dead.

The state Police Public Relations Officer, Haruna Mohammed, confirmed the incident.

He said the Commissioner of Police in the state, John Abang, had ordered investigation into the matter.

Mohammed said, "On Sunday, there was a report of a fatal motor accident along the Asaba-Onitsha Expressway by Coca-Cola Market, Onitsha, involving a Mercedes Benz 911 lorry with number plate, ACA-178-XA, loaded with timber and driven by one Michael Okorie of Oduma, in the Aninri Local Government Area of Enugu State.

"The accident occurred when the truck driver, who was allegedly being pursued by suspected revenue collectors stationed at Headbridge, Onitsha, suddenly lost control and crashed into the concrete barricade near Coca-Cola



• Scene of the incident

Market.

"As a result, the driver of the lorry became unconscious and was rushed to Toronto Hospital by the police patrol team attached to Okpoko division. He was confirmed dead on arrival by a medical doctor on duty.

"The corpse was photographed and deposited at the same hospital's morgue for post-mortem examination.

"However, following the incident, aggrieved youths in their hundreds went on the rampage and blocked the highway, setting bonfires on the road. They were later persuaded to disperse through the joint efforts of the police, union leaders and state government officials.

"The Commissioner of Police, John Abang, who is deeply saddened by the unfortunate incident, has ordered a full-scale investigation into the matter."