

Death toll in Lagos gas

Uthman Salami and
Okikiola Afolabi

AKINTAYO Akinjoye, one of the victims of last Tuesday's gas explosion on the Otedola Bridge along the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway, has died from his injuries, increasing the death toll to five.

Findings by a PUNCH Metro correspondent who was at the Gbagada General Hospital on Thursday revealed that Akinjoye, who operated an office near the explosion site, passed away around 7:30 a.m. on Thursday, two days after being admitted.

Sources at the hospital, who spoke on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of their jobs, revealed to our correspondent that Akinjoye and another injured victim, who is currently recovering, were rushed to the medical facility on Tuesday.



•Scene of the explosion

"They brought in only two injured victims on Tuesday night. We have just lost one. The other patient is in a critical condition but responding to treatment," a source told our correspondent.

The explosion, which occurred at 8:08 pm on Tuesday, was caused by a 30-tonne tanker carrying gas products, said to be owned by a nearby gas station.

PUNCH Metro reported on

Thursday that the blast severely affected De-Twist Dental Clinic, while the generator house and security post of a nearby church building also sustained significant damage.

Eyewitnesses at the scene on Wednesday told our correspondent that responders allegedly recovered four charred bodies, including that of an auto mechanic identified as Rotimi Adeleye.

The chairman of the mechanic workshop where Adeleye worked as an auto technician, Kolawole Ishola, disclosed that the deceased was caught in the explosion while trying to move a customer's vehicle to safety.

He said, "Our shops are not located on the main road, but our colleague, Mr. Rotimi Adeleye, lost his life in the explosion. He had closed for the

explosion hits five

day and was leaving when the fire broke out while driving his Corolla out of the workshop.

"When the tanker fell, he stepped out of his vehicle and was attempting to move a customer's 016 Highlander to safety when the explosion occurred.

"Both his car and the

customer's vehicle were completely burnt. He is set to be buried this morning (Wednesday)," he told our correspondent.

In addition to Adeleye's charred body, which his colleagues from the mechanic village claimed they moved out of the burnt vehicle, three other

bodies were reportedly recovered on Wednesday.

When our correspondent visited the hospital on Thursday, representatives from Second Coming Nigeria were seen offering condolences and assuring the injured victim that the company would provide all necessary support for his recovery.

GTCO withdraws cyberstalking charges against

Onozure Dania

FOUR bloggers accused of cyberstalking Guaranty Trust Holding Company Plc and its Group Chief Executive Officer, Segun Agbaje, have regained their freedom after spending six months in custody.

GTCO on Thursday withdrew its criminal charges police filed against them following a settlement agreement.

Justice Ayokunle Faji of the Federal High Court, Lagos, struck out the case after the prosecution informed the court of the settlement.

The bloggers, Precious Eze (38), Olawale Rotimi (47), Rowland Olonishuwa, and Seun Odunlami, were charged under the Cybercrimes Prohibition Prevention Act by the Police Special Fraud Unit, Ikoyi, Lagos.

They were specifically accused of

spreading false information about Guaranty Trust Holding Company Plc and Group Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Segun Agbaje.

When the matter came up on Thursday for trial, the prosecuting counsel, Chief Ajibola Aribisala, SAN, told Justice Faji that the prosecution and the nominal complainants, GTCO, had finally succumbed to the defendants' pleas to have another look at the matter with other perspectives.

ed to death as Edo safety team driver clash

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