

# Truck crushes Okada rider 24 hours to child's dedication

From **OLUSEYE OJO,**  
Ibadan

**A** truck in Ibadan, the Oyo State capital, yesterday crushed a commercial motorcyclist, simply identified as Kehinde, less than 24 hours to his child's dedication.

It was gathered that a Lagos-bound truck at the popular Iwo Road Roundabout crushed the deceased. He was said to have gone out early yesterday with a view to making enough money to adequately prepare for the naming ceremony that was scheduled for today.

The death sparked violent reactions from scores of Okada riders that stormed the scene. They alleged that Vehicle Inspection Offi-

cers (VIOs) that were at the roundabout yesterday caused the tragedy. The motorcyclists were said to have regrouped later and more than 100 of them stormed and vandalised the VIO office in Ikolaba GRA. Men of Oyo State Police Command were said to have stormed the VIO office when the Okada riders while carrying out the act.

On sighting the policemen, the vandals took to their heels, abandoning their motorcycles at the entrance and premises of the VIO office.

The policemen reportedly fired teargas canisters at the Okada riders and arrested some of them. One of the teargas canisters was said to have landed inside the Nigerian Army Officers' Mess, which is a stone throw to the VIO office in Ikolaba.

This was also said to have sparked another reaction from some soldiers, who came out armed. Though they did not attack the policemen, they stopped movement of vehicles in front of the Mess for several hours.

Checks by Daily Sun revealed that the middle-aged deceased motorcyclist was hit by a Micra taxicab, whose driver tried to evade inspection by the VIOs at the Iwo Road Roundabout. He was said to have swerved and fell under a Lagos-bound articulated vehicle while the truck crushed his head beyond recognition.

The truck driver reportedly escaped with the vehicle. Ditto the driver of the taxicab, who later escaped during the pandemonium that engulfed the scene. It was further gath-

ered that the VIOs hurriedly jumped into their pick up van when they sensed danger and drove towards the direction of the escaping truck on Ibadan-Lagos Expressway.

According to eyewitnesses, the VIOs had arrived at the Iwo Road Roundabout at about 9a.m yesterday and conducted checks on many private and commercial vehicles before the incident occurred.

Efforts made to reach the Chief VIO in the state, Mr. Michael Ajibola, and the spokesperson of the state police command, Mr. Adekunle Ajisebutu, a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), for comment as at the time of filing this report failed, as they did not pick several calls made to their separate cell phones.

N/Assembly management pledges loyalty to Saraki