

Car dealers protest colleague's death

FROM OLUSEYE OJO,
IBADAN

Members of the Motor Dealers Association (MDA) in Oyo State yesterday staged a peaceful protest to the Nigerian Customs Service office in Ibadan over the death of their colleague, Tunde Abdul.

The protesters alleged that Customs officers caused Abdul's death at Alapako area of Lagos-Ibadan Expressway about 4:30a.m yesterday, thereby turning his pregnant wife a widow.

The team of Custom officers purportedly led by Mr. Kunle

Yinusa, were alleged to have stopped some of members of the MDA bringing three cars from Lagos to Ibadan. The Customs officers were said to have asked for the papers of the cars, which the dealers showed them.

The Public Relations Officer of MDA, Pastor Vincent Ayo-deji, who addressed newsmen in the premises of Customs service in Ibadan yesterday further alleged: "But the Customs officers asked them for a bribe which they didn't give. They therefore insisted that the papers were not genuine and told them to wait till daybreak for them to confirm from their office.

"While they were waiting a

truck coming from the opposite direction of the road crushed the vehicles.

"Unfortunately, one of our three members died; his name is Tunde Abdul. The second was injured and that is why we have come here to register our grievances over the extortion by Customs officers, who are in the habit of harassing our members unjustly after presenting legal papers of the vehicles we are bringing into the state."

The registration number of the DAF truck that crushed Abdul was given as OSUN PRN-123 XA. The truck, according to eyewitnesses, wanted to avoid

a pothole and lost control. In the process, it hit the three cars cleared at the Lagos port by the deceased Abdul and two of his colleagues.

The development drew the ire of motor dealers. They barricaded the Bodija-Secretariat Road, beside the Nigerian Customs Service office in protest of Abdul's death. Meanwhile, the motor dealers have urged the leadership of the Nigerian Customs Service and Federal Government to investigate the issue. The Public Relations Officer of Nigerian Customs Service in Ibadan, Njeoma Nkiru, could not be reached on her cell phone as at the time of filing this report.

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