

Man dies as SUV plunges into river

From **Tony John**, Port Harcourt

A middle-aged man died when a Sporting Utility Vehicle (SUV), Lexus, he was driving plunged into Imo River in Oyigbo Local Government Area of Rivers State.

The incident occurred on Sunday at about 5.00pm.

Daily Sun investigation revealed that the driver of the ash Lexus was returning from Abia State, where he had gone to drop his family

for the Christmas holiday.

The sources said, on approaching the Imo River Bridge, the vehicle, which was on speed, lost control and somersaulted several times before it plunged into the river.

One of the eyewitnesses narrated: "I was here when the accident happened. I learnt the man had travelled to Abia State to drop his family for Christmas holiday and was returning to Port Harcourt when the incident happened.

"He lost control of the vehicle on approaching the bridge. The vehicle somersaulted two times before plunging into the River."

He added: "It was very unfortunate that there was not much we could do to rescue the man because this incident happened at about 5.00pm on Sunday, when the divers at the river were on break. If the divers were on ground as of the time the incident took place, they would have rescued the man."

Speaking further, the eyewitness said the incident was reported at Oyigbo Police Station, adding that help was not forthcoming to rescue the victim until Monday morning, when the police came with a crane to pull the vehicle out of the river with the lifeless body of the deceased still at the driver's seat.

However, his corpse had been deposited at undisclosed mortuary, while the vehicle was taken to Oyigbo Police Station.

Gunmen abduct Uyo pastor, demand N50m