



12 Killed in Edo Gov's Convoy Crash

From Funmi Peter-Omale and Damilola Oyedele in Abuja, 09.13.2007

It was yet another tragedy on the nation's roads yesterday as not less than 12 people were killed and several others seriously injured in a multiple accident involving the convoy of the Edo State Governor, Prof. Oserheimen Osunbor, and three other cars along the Lokoja-Abuja road.

The Public Education Officer of the Federal Road Safety Corps, Mr. Yakubu Attah, who confirmed the number of casualties in the accident, however said he could not ascertain the number of those injured.

Two other accidents were also recorded in Abaji and Kwali Area Councils yesterday involving four cars during which at least six people were confirmed killed.

The Public Relations Officer of the Nigeria Police, Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Command, Mr. Uzoma Nwaoha, confirmed the two accidents in FCT.

"I can only confirm that there were two accidents within the FCT jurisdiction; one in Kwali with four casualties and another one in Abaji, which claimed two lives," he said.

But Nwaoha neither confirmed nor denied the accidents involving Osunbor's convoy, saying, "The FCT Command of the Nigeria Police is not aware of any accident involving the convoy of any governor in the FCT. But we are investigating to establish if there was anything like that."

THISDAY, however, learnt last night that the governor's convoy, which was an advance party, indeed travelled ahead of Osunbor but was involved in the accident after an oncoming car allegedly had a burst tyre and ran into the convoy.

An aide of the governor who confirmed that two aides of Osunbor were injured in the accident also stated that the injured had been taken to an undisclosed hospital in Abuja.

Accidents have become almost a daily occurrence on the nation's roads. The causes of the incessant accidents have always varied from the poor state of most of the nation's roads to dangerous driving by motorists.

But FRSC has, however, consistently warned motorists to be extra careful during the ember months when roads get busier.

Meanwhile, in another development, dare-devil armed robbers yesterday afternoon stormed a shopping complex in Wuse II, Abuja carting away cash and electronic items worth millions of naira. Confirming the incident, the Police Public Relations Officer said some policemen had been detailed to investigate the matter.

When THISDAY got to the scene of the crime just few minutes after the armed robbers drove off in an unmarked car, people were seen milling around the place discussing the issue.

According to one of the victims, "four men with assault rifles stormed the shop asking everyone to lie face down. They collected everyone's mobile phone and cash. They collected lap tops as well as other electronics that some customers had purchased."

According to the manager of the shop, an undisclosed amount of money was also taken from the sales point.

"We were all taken by surprise. We believe they may have tried to trace somebody from the bank because they kept asking, "what is in your bag?"

Nobody was injured however during the robbery.