

NEWS

Missing Vanguard Reporter, Tordue Salem, Found Dead

● *Lawan, Omo-Agege, FCT Minister, Ortom, NUJ mourn*

Deji Elumoye, Kingsley Nwezeh and Olawale Ajimotokan in Abuja

The Vanguard Newspaper reporter, Tordue Salem, who disappeared on October 13, 2021, without any trail of his whereabouts was found dead on Thursday night.

This is as the Senate President, Ahmad Lawan, Deputy Senate President, Ovie Omo-Agege, Minister of the Federal Capital Territory, Malam Muhammad Musa Bello, Benue State Governor Samuel Ortom and the leadership of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), North-Central have expressed

shock and sadness over the death of Salem.

It was learnt that the Federal House of Representatives correspondent was last seen around Total Filling Station, close to the Force headquarters, Abuja.

Salem's sudden disappearance prompted a massive search for his whereabouts.

The Nigeria Police yesterday said that the missing Vanguard Newspaper reporter, Henry Salem Tordue, was killed by a hit-and-run driver at the Mabushi District Highway in Abuja.

Parading the driver of Toyota Camry car with registration number BWR

243 BK, the Force Public Relations Officer, Frank Mba, a Commissioner of Police, said that Intelligence Response Team of the police, headed by Deputy Commissioner of Police Olatunji Disu, finally traced the corpse of the reporter to the morgue of the Wuse General Hospital and was identified by the family.

The suspect, a 29-year-old commercial driver, Ito Clement, was paraded yesterday in Abuja.

He said three identity cards comprising that of the National Assembly, Nigerian Union of Journalists and Vanguard Newspaper along with two ATM cards were found on

his body.

Speaking on the incident, the driver told journalists that the deceased was crossing the road when he was hit by the vehicle.

He said the area in the Mabushi was notorious for armed robbery activities.

There were, however, gaps in the police narrative as there was no mention of who picked the corpse and who deposited it at Wuse Hospital.

The driver stated that after he hit him, he was in a panic and reported to a police checkpoint nearby where he was advised to report to Wuse Police Station but he never did.

The late journalist was missing for one month before the body was found.

Reacting to the development, Lawan said the concern

of the National Assembly, when the Senate and the House of Representatives passed separate motions over the disappearance of Salem, was that he would be quickly found and reunited hale and hearty with his family and colleagues.

"It is therefore shocking to hear that the journalist had all the while been killed by a hit and run driver in an accident.

"This is a very unfortunate and heart-rending development," Lawan said.

The Senate President also condolence with the family of Salem, the management of Vanguard Newspapers, the National Assembly Press Corps and the Nigerian Union of Journalists (NUJ)

over this sad loss.

He prayed God to comfort all the loved ones of the departed and grant them the fortitude to bear the loss.

On his part, Omo-Agege charged the Nigerian Police and other security agencies to unravel the circumstances surrounding the killing of Salem.

Omo-Agege in a release yesterday, expressed regret over the unfortunate incident and emphasised the need for conclusive investigations that will unmask all those involved in the journalist's death.

The story making the rounds that one Ito Clement - a commercial driver who allegedly knocked down and killed the journalist - has raised further questions on the circumstances leading to his demise.

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Centre for Economic Transformation