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VANGUARD

Nigeria: Accident Claims Family of Four

Evelyn Usman & Ifeanyi Okolie

17 February 2009

Lagos — A container, weekend, fell on a vehicle along the Oshodi-Apapa expressway, killing a family of four - a mother, her two children and a maid.

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However, the condition of the only survivor in the incident, which caused a hitch in traffic flow for hours, was as at yesterday uncertain. The incident occurred at about 4.45pm on Sunday, at Ijesha bus-stop.

Eye witnesses said it was caused by a motorcyclist who attempted to cross to the other side of the road. The motorcyclist, said to have apparently miscalculated, attempted to turn back. But it was too late as some vehicles were close to him.

In an attempt to avoid crushing the motorcyclist, the driver of a Mercedes Benz reportedly swerved to another lane where unfortunately a jeep was fast approaching. Trying to apply the break, a truck carrying a 40ft container, which was right behind, also applied its break.

In the process, the truck reportedly made a U-turn, resulting in the container falling on the Mercedes Benz with plate number ABUJA CV 417 AB.

The driver of the Mercedes Benz was pulled out alive with blood stains on his brown native attire. Eye witnesses said immediately he was pulled out, he shouted: "Please save my wife and my two-month-old baby," before he went into coma. He was, thereafter, taken to an unknown hospital where his condition was said to be uncertain.

But little or nothing could be done to rescue other members of his family who were trapped under the loaded container.

Meanwhile, the unknown motorcyclist said to have caused the incident could not be found, as he was said to have immediately zoomed off on realising the magnitude of his mistake.

The incident hampered the free flow of traffic in the ever busy expressway until the arrival of policemen from Ijesha division.

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