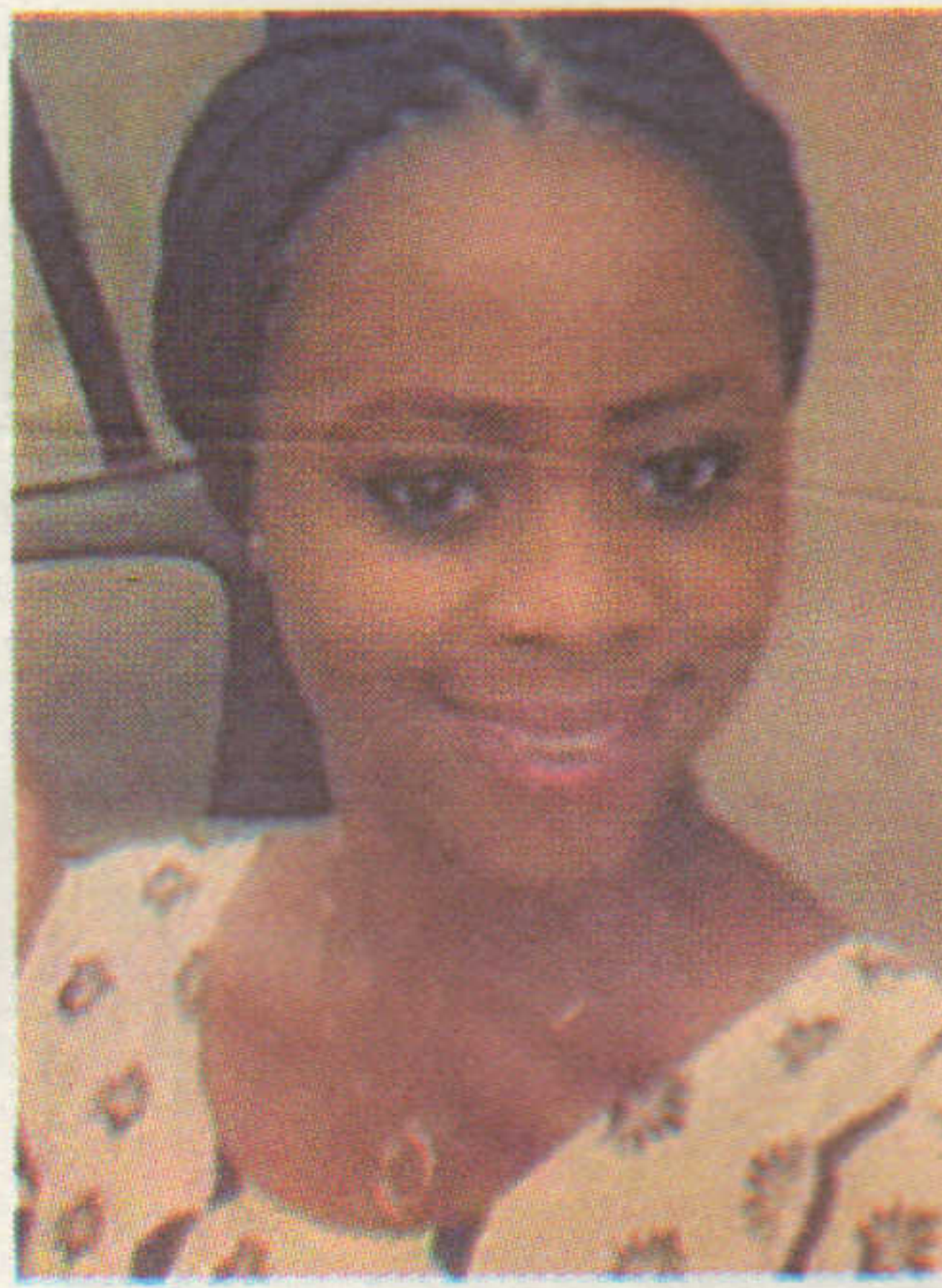


# Gory tales of OOU students death after exams



**Aminat Bintinlaye...died in the crash**



**Asade Christian Ibukun...also died**



**Eunic Oluwadamilola...lost her life**

BY DAUD OLATUNJI

**D**EATH lurked in the corner, but none of them knew, they had parked their belongings ready to reunite with their family members after some months away from home for studies.

The casualty was made up of undergraduates- a fresh graduate and prospective students of Olabisi Onabanjo University Ago-Iwoye in Ijebu-North local government area of Ogun State.

According to the OOU President of Students Union Government, Comrade Adegbesan Adenola. There were 12 students involved, eight were students of Olabisi Onabanjo University, four came to procure the Post-UTME form. There was a survivor from the accident.

Those involved were Odubango Eunice Oluwadamilola. Political Science, 200level, Ogunnoiki Omolade Mariam - History 100 level; Aribiola Yetunde Elizabeth - Biochemistry, 100 level; Adams Suliat Oluwatobi - Accounting, 100 level; Pampam Funmilayo Latifat - Chemical Science 100 level; Asade Christianah Ibukun - Law 200 level and Dairo Olatunji Michael - Physics fresh graduate.

The survivor, according to the SUG president, was Akinbo Laughter Ibukun from department of Chemical Science. On the fateful day, the last course was fixed for Friday and the plan was that after the exam, off to home where comfort was awaited them. They left their school as planned but could not get to their destinations. Indeed, they travelled but ended up in heaven unexpectedly and unprepared.

These eight students of Olabisi Onabanjo University and the three prospective students as well as their driver all lost their lives at a stretch in a tragic motor accident that occurred around Ago-Iwoye/Ilisan road on Sagamu-Benin expressway in Sagamu local government area of Ogun State.

Apart from friends and colleagues of the dead students who narrated their losses, the only survivor had a gory tale to tell about how the incident occurred and consumed 12 persons on the fateful day.

When news of the incident filtered into the campus and around, it was received as if it happened elsewhere. Expectedly, every parent that heard of the news groaned, wept, regretted and sympathised with the affected parents.

But three days after the incident, it dawned on colleagues of the dead students who travelled from the campuses to the scene that it their colleagues and it worse than imagined.

The students who arrived the scene exactly 12:27 am in buses believed to have been facilitated by the school authorities clad in black clothings betrayed their emotions.

But on sighting the wreckage of the 14-seater bus that conveyed their colleagues from the campus after the exams, emotion ran higher and hell was let loose as the students attempted to unleash terror on any driver sighted.

Motorists earlier allowed to pass the second lane of the scene were immediately stopped by the students while any truck with container sighted became victims.

All the security agents on ground to maintain law and order hurriedly directed the motorists who were plying the road to make a detour and take other routes. But those who disobeyed the order have been counting their loses as their vehicles were damaged.

## How I escaped -Survivor

The only survivor of the last Friday auto crash, Ibukun, has attributed her escape to an act of God. Ibukun who spoke with a delegation sent to her while in hospital bed could not hold back her tears, lamenting that she had lost her cousin in the incident.

She described the accident as a sudden occurrence. What she could do was weep as the memory of the auto crash was still not clear to her, coupled with the fact that she lost her cousin to the

accident.

Although, she sustained a high degree of injury on her left arm, she could not express herself and how the accident occurred. Rather, she was emotional and wept continuously.

She attributed her survival to the ghostly motor accident to the act and benevolence of the Almighty God, stressing that she could not explain how it happened and how she was able to make it.

It was gathered that the survivor had been thrown out before the container fell on the bus that carried the students.

According to findings, the survivor was sitting at the door and the door was faulty. After the collision, the door fell while she fell with the door into the bush, that was how she was rescued by God. Unfortunately, her cousin was also in the bus at the time of the incident.

Further findings have shown that in the manifest that was retrieved from the garage, two surnames were there and after talking to the survivor, it was realised that her cousin was also in the bus.

## Friends and colleagues' tales

Zainab Ayobamiji lamented, "My friend, Omolade Mariam Ogunnoiki, is a student of history. She finished her exam to travel home. Is it a crime to travel home? Government should stop these killings even if they are to get a separate road for trailers to ply and they should stop killing our friends. After all they said this container was empty but we can see goods inside the container right now.

To Benjamin Abayomi,

"Eunice Damilola Adebajo was very lovely, friendly and played with everyone". According to Gbenga Ayanuga, ex-student of Olabisi Onabanjo University, "one of my colleagues who graduated with me last year happens to be one of the victims of the accident. We are here to pray and to tell the world that this is not just happening but has been going on for a long time.

"We stay in the same area in school. Tunji (physics department) graduated in 2013/2014. He happens to be one of the victims. He only came for his clearance in school and should be going for service this September. He was very gentle and a cool guy".

Simply identified as Precious, another student said she lost a colleague. She said "I know Suliat Oluwatobiloba, a 100-level accounting student. She is brilliant, obedient and calm. She is like a school daughter to us in our hall.

"We are not happy about what happened. But no matter what has happened, we want to believe God still has a hand in what happened. I know that we are all grieved".

In her remarks, Bukola Odumoye, a 200-level mass communication student, said, "They should help us stop this phobia of travelling by road because of these trailers."

Speaking on behalf of the students of the OOU, SUG president, Comrade Adegbesan Adenola, described the incident as tragic. He said, "We are not happy about it, you can see the way students are feeling. It tells enough stories of the loss that has befallen our institution from the bloody Friday to this Black Monday.

"We were with the survivor on Saturday to check on her and we were also there on Sunday with delegates. Her condition is improving because she is in the surgical department.

"Right now, there are lot of questions that demand lot of answers, you would want to ask about the state of our roads, why the trailer will take a one-way, you would also want to ask the FRSC and TRACE where they were at that point in time. You would want to ask why the FRSC officials after evacuating the bodies of the people and then decide not to take them to the hospital of the best school as accredited by the NUC with the best equipment, doctors but take them on a bad road to one maternity home with absolute no facility, the state of the mortuary in the hospital is pathetic.

"You would want to ask if that is a conspiracy in itself because this is a complete

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failure of all government mechanisms. If we have all these mechanisms- police, Trace, good roads in place, this is avertable. This is as a result of the government failure.

"We would send letters to them all, demanding full investigation into the matter and the company operating here, SELPLAS. We have found out that what is contained in the container belongs to them, they should be prosecuted for corporate manslaughter. We want them to produce the driver of the trailer because with the security facilities we have in this state, the driver is still at large and they are claiming they have no record of the driver. They must produce him and he must be prosecuted accordingly. We are giving them a 7-days ultimatum to investigate the FRSC, for the government to give us reasonable and adequate answer.

"Though, they are dead and there's nothing we can do to bring them back alive but we want to pursue two things to a logical conclusion; first, we want justice for their souls and two, we want to avert this kind of occurrence from happening again".

Chairman, National Association of Nigerian Students, Joint Campus Committed, Ogun State axis, Ogunola Okikiola Mubarak, said "this accident is not from God, it is man-made because if it is from God, it should be a lone accident, but, in this case, it is the recklessness of the driver and we believe it is a mass murder of our students which we are totally against. It is a barbaric and unlawful act committed by the driver.

"We have tried to get in touch with few of the family of the deceased and the management of the OOU has set up a committee that would visit the families individually to ensure that necessary actions are taken and that the deceased do not die in vain".

Academic Staff Union of University, OOU, in its reaction, described the incident as a shock.

Chairman, ASUU, OOU, Head of Department of Morbid Anatomy and Histopathology and an associate professor in that department, Dr. Deji Agboola, said "It came as a shock to everybody, we never expected this to happen moreso that the students just finished their exams and while some are supposed to start today (Monday) and majority of them are 100-level students.

While speaking on how the



• OOU students during their protest over the death of their colleagues

management identified the students, Agboola said "We identified the students with their ID cards, initially, the claim was that everyone in the bus died but there is a survivor who is receiving treatment at Babcock University, the state government gave us money, I deposited the money at Babcock University having received the money from the SSG.

"The problems here is the stress the students went through in getting their colleagues. FRSC took them to a private hospital instead of taking them to the teaching hospital, despite passing by OOUTH before getting to that hospital. The students thought they were trying to cover a lot of things, that is why we have all these problems.

"The management is making efforts to calm the students, they have ensured we moved the bodies to OOUTH where they can monitor them and we also declared today and tomorrow (Monday and Tuesday) lecture-free. We are also taking part in the candle procession today, (Tuesday) we are arranging a commendation service for those eight students we have identified as our students while two are post UTME students and the driver while we are yet to identify the eleventh person. We also used the sim cards of the victims to identify them, that's why we were able to get details of some of them.

"The university has set up a committee headed by the Dean of Students Affairs together with the students are on their way to Lagos to meet with the families".

Leading his men to the scene, Federal Road Safety Corps, Ogun state Sector commander, Adegoke Adetunji denied that his men were not on duty during the accident.

He said, "It is not so, our men were on duty on that day, the problem is whenever the drivers sight any road safety personnel, they behave but after we have gone past them, they misbehave and do whatever they like, we cover the road up to Ijebu Ode, Ore and then Benin everyday because this road is very critical as an expressway".

While speaking on the rationale behind the choice of the private hospital, instead of Olabisi Onabanjo University Teaching Hospital Adegoke said POUTH has a

policy of not taking victims involved in traffic crashes and at the time we took them away from the scene, we never knew their identities but it has been observed that corpses of victims of crashes are not being taken in from us.

"Our men have a duty to take the corpses to an hospital that is ready to assist and that was why they were taken to Fakoya hospital. "Because of the previous incidents, they didn't go there. Whenever there's a crash, the earlier you take them to hospitals, the better and that was why they were taken to the nearest hospital where they always take accident victims to.

"The drivers using these roads should always obey traffic rules, if there is a legal diversion, anyone coming through the other side will know when he sees other vehicles coming his way which is expected.

"But in a case of illegal diversion, they should avoid diverting roads on their own if not properly charged by the appropriate organ. Our people should be safety conscious and they should know that life has no duplicate, they should obey road traffic rules accordingly", he said.

Meanwhile, the state government delegation, which visited the survivor at a private hospital in the state was led by the Deputy Governor, Yetunde Onanuga and the Secretary to the State Government, Taiwo Adeoluwa, conveyed the message of the Governor to the family of the Survivor.

During a meeting between the Government delegation

and management of the institution, the Chairman of the Academic Staff Union of Universities, Olabisi Onabanjo University, Dr. Agboola and the President of the Students Union Government of the Institution, Adenola Adegbesan faulted the security agencies and other traffic officers who rescued the victims to private hospital instead of the Olabisi Onabanjo University Teaching Hospital, Sagamu.

The Deputy Governor, Yetunde Onanuga and the Secretary to the State Government, Adeoluwa conveyed the condolence of the Government and people of the state to the Management of the Institution stressing that it was a sad incident.

Adeoluwa disclosed that in order to forestall future occurrence of such situation, Governor Amosun has directed security agencies in the state to confiscate any vehicle that contravenes traffic rules along the Sagamu/Benin/Ore Expressway with immediate effect while the Deputy Governor assured the management that government would take drastic measures to ensure sanity on the highway.

In his remark, Vice-Chancellor of the institution, Prof. Sabur Adesanya, commended the state government and the people of the state for standing by the institution since the incident occurred last Friday, stating that the management has concluded arrangements on how to locate and visit the families of the deceased.

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