

Briton, 2 Police officers, another killed in Benue auto crashes

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By Peter Duru

MAKURDI—A Briton, Flourish Masters, two Police officers and another person have been reportedly killed in two separate ghastly motor accidents in Otukpo and Gboko local government areas of Benue State.

Vanguard learned that Ms. Masters met her death while on her way from a wedding ceremony along Otukpo-Adoka road in company of her younger sister and a young man who drove the ill fated vehicle.

"They were three of them in the vehicle they were traveling in, unfortunately, they had a collision with another vehicle just few meters from the heart of Otukpo town.

"The young lady, Flourish, who was originally from Ohimini local government of Benue state but held a British passport, was spending Christmas in Nigeria for the first time in 14 years died on the spot same as the driver.

"Her younger sister whose traditional wedding was scheduled for Tuesday (yesterday) who was sitting behind the drivers seat sustained serious injuries and is in a critical condition at a private hospital in the town," a close family source said.

Vanguard further gathered that the two Police officers met their untimely death while on a stop and search duty at Akpagher Mbatiav along the Gboko-Aliade road.

They were said to have been crushed to death by a taxi driver who apparently lost control of his vehicle and rammed into them, killing the duo on the spot.

Confirming the incident, the state Police Public Relations Officer, PPRO, Moses Yamu, an Assistant Superintendent, ASP, dispelled initial rumours that a lunatic was behind the wheel of the vehicle that crushed the Police officers.

ASP Yamu said: "The taxi driver had a failed brake and lost control of the car. He initially ran into a motorcycle before knocking down the two policemen who were at their duty post. They died on the spot. It was not a mad man that drove the car, as being rumoured, but the owner of the taxi."

Yamu who noted that the remains of the deceased policemen had been deposited at the mortuary also disclosed that the taxi driver was arrested and detained while investigation into the matter was still ongoing at the time of filing this report.

Meanwhile, the Otukpo Commandant of the Federal Road Safety Corps, FRSC, Mr. Oga Shekarau who confirmed receiving sketchy information on the Otukpo accident said his office was yet to get the full details of the incident.