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MONDAY 04 JULY

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Police patrol car kills okadaman in Benue, colleagues run riot

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By Peter Duru

MAKURDI—Angry commercial motor cycle operators (*okadamen*), yesterday, afternoon burnt a police patrol vehicle in Makurdi, Benue State capital, after one of their members was allegedly crushed to death by a police car.

Vanguard learned that the police patrol team was on a routine assignment few metres from the Makurdi Federal Secretariat, when the vehicle accidentally knocked down the commercial motorcycle rider, who died instantly.

According to an eyewitness, “the police patrol Peugeot car was carrying police officers, who were on routine patrol, when they crushed the *okadaman* to death.

His (female) passenger, a staff of Benue State University Teaching Hospital, sustained a fracture.

“What angered the people was that police refused to take the victims to hospital despite being responsible for the accident. Few minutes later, sympathisers called officials of the Federal Road Safety Corps, FRSC, who took both the dead and injured to the hospital.

“It was the careless attitude of the Police that sparked the angry reactions from other *okada* riders, who mobilised and burnt the patrol vehicle and also attempted to march to the nearby ‘B’ Division Police station in the area.

“However, their move was checked, as policemen fired tear-gas canisters to disperse the angry youths.”

It was gathered that though calm had returned to the community, police had drafted personnel to the area to maintain the peace.

When contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer, Assistant Superintendent Moses Yamu, who confirmed the incident, said peace had returned to the area.