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Truck collides with taxi Heavy bags of cement topple off

## **Cement bags trap six people alive** **Black brother courageously comes to the rescue**



**GZ Daily (Zhou Zuo reporting)** Lovable black brother, where are you? Yesterday night in the Xicha road section of Guangzhou's Tongde village, an oversize Dongfeng brand truck loaded with cement scraped a taxi while making a U-turn. The driver swerved, causing dozens of bags of cement to topple off the top of the truck along with six workers who had been riding atop the bags. The workers became trapped under the weight of the cement. One by one, passers-by arrived to assist in rescuing those trapped in the pile. One black brother rushed on to the scene and participated in the rescue before waltzing off.

### **Black brother lifts cement bag to save a life**

Around 11pm yesterday, an oversize truck full of cement was passing through the four-way intersection in front of the Lide Senior Citizen Apartments on Xicha road when it scraped against a taxi, probably because of the extreme length of the vehicle and the excessive speed

of the turn as they both swerved to avoid each other. The centrifugal force of the truck driver's swerve caused several bags from the top of the truck to spill out onto the street. The five or six workers who were seated on top of the cement bags at the time of the collision fell together with the bags of cement into the middle of the street.

Witness Mr. Wu, who observed the accident while standing across the street eating a late-night snack, explained that only when the dust cloud finally cleared was it discovered that 40-50 bags of cement had tumbled onto the street.

"The truck driver nervously shouted for help. When some of the bolder onlookers started to move in closer, we found there were moaning sounds coming from the scene. It was only then that we knew there were people under the cement," said Old Huang, a witness.

Members of the crowd came one by one to assist in the rescue of the wounded in the pile. One old man told this reporter that a black brother came over and joined the rescue effort. He was strong and saved a man by lifting cement bags off his body.

Thanks to the efforts of the ten or more persons who participated in the rescue, none of the men in the pile were killed. There were a few minor injuries, and one who was injured more severely, who after being rescued lay on the street unable to get up. Everyone at the scene was covered head to foot in cement dust. The black brother's heroism was corroborated by other witnesses. "He had a translator with him. Probably here attending the Canton Fair." The whole rescue process took only ten minutes, after which the black brother left without a word.

One rescued worker, upon hearing that a black brother had participated in the rescue, was very touched: "We came here from Hubei. I would like to personally thank this black brother, as well as the others who rescued us."



## **Taxi passengers' condition more serious**

After the accident, an emergency vehicle quickly arrived on the scene, taking several of the wounded to the nearby Guangzhou Junqu General Hospital for emergency treatment. This reporter saw that the taxi driver's right wrist had suffered a cut from the glass, but after receiving stitches he was free to leave. A female passenger, however, was wounded more seriously, her face covered in blood, and spent the night in the hospital.

Reporters observed that the time of the accident was almost midnight, at which time the vehicular traffic (mostly large commercial trucks) and pedestrian traffic were constantly flowing. Passers-by remarked that this area is a major thoroughfare for cargo vehicles during the day, with even more trucks at night. "And they drive frighteningly fast."

### **Sketch of the Black Brother:**



*"Strong build, bald"*



*“Jeans, checkered shirt”*

According to eyewitness accounts, the lifesaving black brother drew the attention of the masses then present at the scene. The taxi driver who was involved in the accident said that the black brother must have been walking along the street, because not many foreigners live in that area of town.

An eyewitness described his appearance to this reporter: he was of fairly strong build, with a bald head. He wore jeans and a white checkered shirt. His body and style of dress made him look very striking at night.

It was said that his white shirt was at once covered in ashy gray dust from the cement. Reportedly this black brother didn't say a word the entire time. He was accompanied by what appeared to be a female translator, who was carrying a briefcase.

## **None of the rescuers left their name**

The taxi driver who was involved in the accident spoke to this reporter at Guangzhou Junqu General Hospital about the emotions he felt at the incident, saying: “At that time, I had been out of the taxi for a long time. The car door and window were both damaged, and anyone could have simply pushed on the door to open it and steal the valuables inside. In addition, the scene of the incident was very chaotic, and it would have been very easy for anyone to take advantage of the crisis for their own gain. But no one did anything like that. I’m deeply touched.” Due to the chaos at the scene, the traffic policeman did not release any details of the accident.

It has been reported that several laborers in the truck had been examined and that none had been particularly harmed, and that all had left the hospital that same night. They said that they had absolutely no idea who had pulled them out. They could only remember the brief instant when the bags of cement flipped off the truck, and then that someone had pulled them out. They expressed their gratitude to those who had done such a kind deed without leaving their name.

Numerous eyewitnesses at the scene of the accident told this reporter that the many young laborers who live in the surrounding area come from all over. At the scene, this reporter heard people talking in languages from Henan, Jiangxi, Sichuan, and elsewhere about the rescue. Many of them were shirtless, and were reportedly manual laborers at a local market.

**Translated by Jon Weed and Gus Tate**