

Mother plans to sue state over son's death

A MOTHER says she will sue the state and the Highways Department after the death of one of her two-and-a-half-year-old twins when her car was involved in a crash.

Ipek Kaleli Çiçek was speaking on Wednesday after a judge at Gazimağusa Assizes Court said that although the driver of another vehicle involved in the crash — 22-year-old Nigerian Eahoro Arausi — was partly to blame for the death of little Doğa Çiçek, serious road defects and the lack of a child seat in Mrs Çiçek's car were also contributory factors.

Prosecutors said they planned to appeal against the two-year prison sentence imposed on Arausi, along with a six-month driving ban on his release, saying they were both too short.

Mrs Çiçek said: "No matter what the sentence is, it will not bring back my child but the state invited his death because we are forced to use a road that is not registered by the Highways Department. This is a state

that does not protect its citizens and causes the death of children.

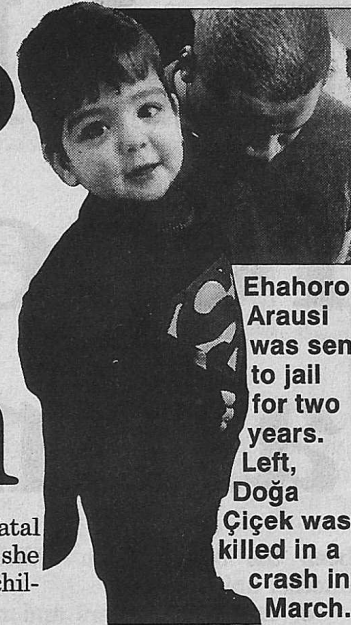
"There was no child seat because my car is a small one and all my children could not squeeze into the back seat, so I removed it.

"I have been a driver for 22 years but the person who smashed into my car was a 22-year-old who had been driving at 165kph."

The court had heard that the horrific crash on March 7, at the Tuzla junction on the old Lefkoşa-Gazimağusa road, followed repeated safety warnings about it from the local District Office and others. It happened when the car being driven by Mrs Genç was struck by Arausi's speeding Mercedes as he attempted to overtake other cars when she was turning right into a housing estate. The impact set Cyprus International University student Arausi's car ablaze before it careered off

the road in flames, uprooting an electricity pole and burning out in a field. Mrs Çiçek's car spun round, with

little Doğa suffering fatal head injuries, while she and her three other children were all injured.



Eahoro Arausi was sent to jail for two years. Left, Doğa Çiçek was killed in a crash in March.

'Burglar stole 600-kilo safe alone'

A CASH-filled safe weighing 600 kilos was among items stolen when a Gazimağusa market was burgled on Monday night.

The town's district court heard that police later found the safe containing 55,000TL, \$4,190, 4,010 euros and £595 in a van belonging to Kamil Reishan, who lives near Lazoğlu Nurool Market in the walled city.

Reishan is said to have admitted the burglary, but to have said he had acted alone — a claim challenged by police due to the weight of the safe. He was remanded in custody for three days as police inquiries continued.

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