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5 killed, several injured in Nasarawa road accident

By Abubakar Abdullahi, Lafia

An accident along the Akwanga-Keffi Expressway involving a Sienna vehicle with registration number ABJ-367-FJ has claimed the lives of five people, including a child.

The accident occurred around 10am on Thursday in Keffi.

Five people, made up of three men, a woman and her child, died on the spot.

Others who sustained varying degrees of injuries were taken to a nearby hospital for medical attention by passersby who gathered to render assistance.

At the scene of the incident, eyewitnesses interviewed blamed the accident on officials of the Federal Road Safety Corps, FRSC, who they said pursued the vehicle from Keffi, having sped off to evade vehicle inspection.

"The vehicle that had an accident was pursued by an FRSC van after they stopped the driver in Keffi, but he refused to stop.

"They chased him to this place, and after he had an accident, they reversed and went back," a witness, Bara'u Nasiru, said.

As a result of the manner in which the accident occurred, angry youths who besieged the scene blocked both sides of the trunk-A Akwanga - Keffi Expressway, leading to traffic gridlock. It took the intervention of soldiers to pacify them to reopen the road for motorists.

The bodies of the accident victims were eventually evacuated to the morgue at the Federal Medical Centre, Keffi.

During a visit to the FRSC office opposite Nasarawa State University, Keffi, it was completely deserted, as only security officers were seen guarding the structure against possible attacks by angry people.

When contacted by phone, the State Command of the FRSC's Public Relations Officer, Kennedy Nwankwo, said the matter is currently under investigation, and the State Sector Commander would address the press soon after the investigation is concluded.

"The incident that happened in Keffi is under investigation, and when the investigation is done, the Sector Commander has the right to grant an interview in respect to that, but for now, we are still gathering information on that," he said.