

2 brothers killed in Ondo crash during stop-and-search operation

Two brothers were crushed to death on Wednesday after a truck rammed into vehicles and motorcycles during a stop-and-search operation by Vehicle Inspection Officers (VIO) along Reuben Fasoranti Road in Akure, the Ondo State capital.

The victims, said to be middle-aged fruit sellers, were riding a motorcycle when the accident occurred near the VIO headquarters in Alagbaka. They died instantly.

Eyewitnesses said VIO officials were conducting checks on vehicle documents, causing heavy traffic congestion, before a truck reportedly suffered brake failure and ploughed into vehicles and motorcycles trapped in the gridlock.

A commercial driver, Ajayi Iyiola, who narrowly escaped the crash, said he had parked to deliver goods when the incident happened.

Several vehicles were damaged in the crash.

Police officers from the Ijapo Division later evacuated the victims' bodies to the morgue.

The incident triggered outrage among residents and sympathisers, many of whom blamed the VIO operation for contributing to the traffic build-up that preceded the tragedy.

Tension rose in the area as some angry youths attempted to attack the VIO office before security operatives restored calm.

The Ondo State Command of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) said investigations had commenced to determine the circumstances surrounding the crash.

The FRSC added that the victims' bodies had been deposited at the Ondo State Specialist Hospital mortuary by the police.