

News

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Imo: Two killed, several injured as tipper rams bus conveying Army recruits



Two persons were confirmed dead while several others sustained varying degrees of injuries on Saturday after a tipper truck loaded with sand collided with a commercial luxury bus conveying newly shortlisted Nigerian Army recruits from Obinze, Imo state, to the Nigerian Army Depot in Zaria, **Kaduna state**.

The tragic accident occurred about two kilometres from the Obinze Army Barracks at about 5:30 a.m., throwing the recruits' journey into mourning and triggering a massive rescue operation.

The deceased were identified as the bus conductor and one of the prospective recruits, while the injured victims were rushed to the Federal Medical Centre (FMC), Owerri, where they are currently receiving medical attention.

Eyewitnesses said the sand-laden tipper reportedly lost control before crashing into the bus with a devastating impact, leaving several passengers trapped in the wreckage.

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"It was a horrifying scene. The tipper suddenly veered off its lane and smashed into the bus. Soldiers, passers-by and other survivors worked frantically to rescue those trapped before emergency responders arrived," an eyewitness recounted.

Personnel of the Nigerian Army, assisted by local residents and emergency responders, were seen evacuating the injured from the mangled vehicle and conveying them to hospital.

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Confirming the incident, the Army Public Relations Officer (APRO), Major Abdullahi Maimartaba, said the accident involved a bus conveying Potential Constabulary Candidates (PCOs) to the Nigerian Army Depot in Zaria.

“The Potential Constabulary Candidates were travelling en route to Zaria when the accident occurred at about 5:30 a.m., approximately two kilometres from Obinze Barracks after a tipper truck rammed into their bus,” Maimartaba said.

He dismissed reports circulating on social media suggesting a higher death toll, insisting that only two persons lost their lives.

“Contrary to reports on social media, only two persons—a bus conductor and one of the candidates—died in the accident. Some others sustained injuries and are currently receiving treatment at the Federal Medical Centre, Owerri,” he added.

The tragic incident has once again raised concerns over the increasing number of fatal road accidents involving heavy-duty vehicles on Nigerian highways, with residents calling for stricter enforcement of traffic regulations to prevent further loss of lives.