

Seven journalists killed in Gombe road crash

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The crashed vehicle. Photo: Chima Azubuiké

By Chima Azubuiké

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Seven journalists have been confirmed killed in a lone crash that occurred in the Gombe South area of Gombe State on Monday.

PUNCH Metro learnt that the accident occurred on Monday evening as the journalists were returning from a wedding ceremony in Gombe South Senatorial District.

The journalists were said to have boarded the bus to show solidarity with a colleague, an employee of the Nigerian Television Authority, who was getting married.

Confirming the incident in a telephone interview with our correspondent, the Gombe State Sector Commander of the Federal Road Safety Corps, Samson Kaura, said preliminary information indicated that the crash was fatal.

He noted that while the details of the incident were still sketchy at the time of filing this report, the accident was attributed to a possible tyre burst.

“It is a lone accident, and from the information we have so far, it is very fatal,” Kaura said.

“We have not gotten full details for now. I am still waiting for our officers on the ground. They are still carrying out rescue operations, but the accident is fatal.

“I suspect it may have been a tyre burst. Perhaps the driver applied the brake and the vehicle somersaulted,” he added.

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Kaura noted that FRSC rescue teams were still at the scene as of the time of the interview and promised that a comprehensive report would be made available after the operation.

In a further update, Kaura noted that seven occupants of the vehicle were killed in the crash while four others sustained injuries.

“From the information available to us, 11 people were involved in the crash. Sadly, seven of them died on the spot, while four others sustained varying degrees of injuries,” Kaura said.

Fatal road crashes during the Yuletide season are becoming increasingly common.

PUNCH Metro reported on Monday that a driver allegedly caused the death of a nine-year-old boy and injured four others after losing control of his vehicle due to suspected speeding and crashing into the children.

The accident reportedly occurred when the driver, overspeeding, lost control of the vehicle and rammed into the children, who were standing at the gate of a house in the area.

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Similarly, two separate accidents that occurred along the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway and the Sango-Ijoko Road on November 26 left five people dead and three others injured.

The accidents were blamed on speeding and dangerous driving.