

20 killed in auto crash

ODOGWU EMEKA ODOGWU,
Awka

MORE than 20 persons, including three nursing mothers and a pregnant woman, were yesterday feared killed in a ghastly motor accident along Onitsha-Enugu expressway, by Quatta (Abattoir) junction, near Udoka Housing Estate, Awka.

The accident involved a trailer, a Jeep with registration number, ABJ 522 IRSH and a Jetta car, marked XC 877 WJC. The trailer said to be coming from Onitsha, was descending a hill around the Abattoir junction, when its breaks failed, leading to the driver losing control. It later ran into the Jeep which veered off the road, crushing into some people, including commercial motorcycle

operators, popularly known as Okala petty traders, and pedestrians.

Five witnesses, Ikechukwu Okafor and Sunday Nwator, told *Daily Champion* that the incident happened around 4:30 pm when the trailer marked Gray Plant Nigeria Limited was conveying a Roller machine. The roller machine failed to break and crashed into more than 30 motorcyclists. Five persons were said to have been trapped, while more than 20 persons were found dead on the spot.

When contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Mr. Fidelis Agbo, who confirmed the incident, said only eight persons died in the accident, even as he said his men have been dispatched to the scene and hospitals

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hospital, Dr Vincent Epuechi said four injured persons were brought to the hospital with one in coma, but who later regained consciousness, while two persons were brought in dead.

A survivor Igwe Paulinus who could not narrate what happened, only remembered that he was dropped by a bike before being hit by the trailer.

Other survivors, Chika Eluwa a nursing mother from Ikwo local government and Mercy Ofogu, thanked their God for sparing their lives.