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## Nigeria: 20 Burnt to Death in Ekiti Auto Crash

BY VICTOR OGUNJE, 6 MARCH 2012

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Ado Ekiti — Eighteen passengers and drivers of two buses were feared dead yesterday as two 18-seater buses collided and instantly went on flame at Iwaraja-Ijesha junction on Akure-Ife road.

An eyewitness said an unidentified 18-seater bus which was heading to Ekiti state or Iwaraja swerved from its lane to avoid hitting a motorcyclist that was allegedly being pursued by officers of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) and had an head on collision with an on-coming bus belonging to Akoko-Edo council, said to be coming from Igarra.

The eyewitness, who spoke to the Press Crew of the Governor of Ekiti State that was on the way to attend a function in Lagos, said the two buses caught fire immediately after the collision.

All the passengers and drivers were trapped with only five passengers said to have managed to escape the inferno but got seriously injured. They were taken to an undisclosed hospital for treatment while others who were said to be more than twenty were burnt to death.

Efforts of passers-by and men of the Osun state fire services to quench the fire were futile, as the casualties could not be saved from the raging inferno.

FRSC Sector Commander in Osun, Mr Sunday Maku, confirmed the casualty figures in a chat with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Osogbo on Monday.

Maku said the victims, including two drivers, were burnt beyond recognition when two buses coming from opposite directions collided and caught fire.

He said one of the buses was coming from Akure and heading to Ibadan while the other was moving in the opposite direction.

"The two buses were a white Toyota Hiace Bus with registration number LG 27 GAR with the inscription, Akoko Edo Line, while the other was a Volkswagen wagon with white and orange colour and an unidentified registration number.

"Twelve adults, including eight males and four females who were seriously injured, were rushed to Wesley College Hospital in Ilesa for treatment," he said.

He blamed the incident, which occurred at about 12:10 p.m., on over speeding and dangerous overtaking

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