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TRUCK CRUSHES WOMAN TO DEATH IN ABA

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Ugochukwu Alaribe, Aba

Tragedy struck at the Aba waterside bridge on Wednesday when a woman in her late 50s was crushed to death by a heavy duty trailer at the Umuoba road section of the Aba Waterside Bridge, Ogor Hill along Ikot Ekpene road Aba.

Eye witness accounts say the truck driver was negotiating into Ikot Ekpene road from Umuoba road when it suddenly started jerking backwards.

"The vehicle instead of moving forward started rolling back and eventually upturned and crushed the woman to death and injured another young man, who was also caught unawares."

According to the witnesses, the victims were two out of the three passengers that alighted from a tricycle at the spot of the incident, adding that the driver of the tricycle failed to notice the malfunctioning vehicle when he stopped his passengers close to the truck and all efforts to alert him of the danger failed.

One of the passengers who escaped death by whispers, identified as Madam Patience, blamed the tricycle driver conveying them for being careless.

"I told the Keke man to move away from where he parked, but he refused and asked me why I should control him," she said.

Residents of Aba have argued that most accidents on that bridge were as a result of insensitivity of commercial bus drivers and Keke operators, who pack indiscriminately in the area.

Daily Champion checks revealed that Ogor Hill Waterside Bridge has become an accident spot as no week passes without heavy duty trucks falling on the bridge which sometimes lead to loss of lives.

Recently, 5 persons, including a pregnant woman and a 7-year-old boy suffered serious injuries when a heavy-duty vehicle belonging to a soft drink bottling company, rammed into tricycles on the Ogor Hill Bridge.

The truck driver was alleged to have lost control of his vehicle and consequently rammed into the two tricycles.

Residents of the area have called on the Federal and State Governments to commence rehabilitation works on the bridge, which had become weak as well as construct an overhead bridge at the section to ease the movement of articulated vehicles.

This, according to them, would reduce the spate of accidents on the Ogor Hill Waterside bridge along Ikot Ekpene road which is the only route out of Aba to Akwa Ibom and Cross River states which calls for urgent attention to avert further loss of lives on the bridge.

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