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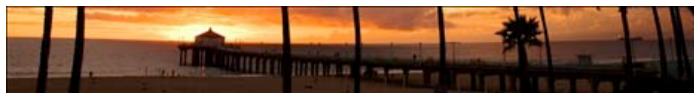
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[Nigeria: 19 Die in Niger Auto Crash](#)

Ayegba Israel Ebije

23 April 2010

Minna — **NINETEEN** people died late Tuesday along the Tegna- Lagos highway in Niger State after a head-on collision between two commuter buses. The police and FRSC are however not in agreement on the casualty figure.

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The two vehicles according to witnesses ran into each other in the pot-hole ridden Tegna road killing 19 persons on the spot.

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Iliyasu, a witness, said there was no way the two vehicles could avoid each other as both of them were on top speed, adding that coupled with the bad road full of pot-holes, both drivers had no chance of manipulating their vehicles to safety.

The Niger State police spokesman said yesterday in Minna that 19 persons died in the crash, adding that among the dead were to NYSC members.

He said **25** persons were taken to the Federal Medical Centres in Kontagora and Kagara for treatment as they all suffered various degrees of injury. The corpses of the dead were deposited in the mortuary for identification, he said. Meanwhile, the sector commander of the FRSC Mr Emmanuel Omotosho Abbe differed on the casualty figure, saying contrary to the police report which said 19 persons died, his men only recovered eight bodies.

He blamed the accident on over-speeding, saying if the drivers had maintained the safety speed limit the carnage would have been avoided. "Eight people have been confirmed dead as some people have been taken to the hospital for treatment on their injuries", he said.

He said efforts would be intensified on the campaign for safety in the state as the FRSC would deal with violators of traffic rules.

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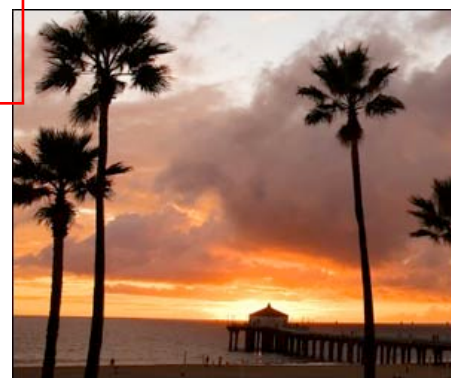
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