

A truck belonging to a construction firm went over the railings of the bridge near Millennium Park on Shehu Shagari way in Abuja, yesterday.

How Ibadan bus fire killed 5 pupils

From Yemi Bamidele, Ibadan

OYO State Police Command said the quick intervention of its men reduced the death toll of the Wednesday night bus fire in Ibadan which claimed five pupils.

Fifteen pupils were in the bus when it was engulfed by fire in Ibadan.

Police spokesman Bisi Okuwobi, who confirmed the incident, said, "it was a very sad incident. Thirteen of the kids that had severe burns were admitted at the UCH; some others were taken to private

hospitals for treatment.

"Many lives would have been lost, but for the quick intervention of policemen, other people around and some motorists who stopped to render a helping hand," said Mrs. Olayinka Oke, one of the sympathisers."

The children, aged between five and 11 years were said to be pupils of Divine Wisdom Group of Schools, Amosun area in the Lagelu Local Government Area of Oyo State.

They were enroute their school after having been picked at their

various homes when the tragedy occurred midway as the school bus suddenly caught fire, leaving majority of the children with varying degrees of burns.

The bus caught fire at the main gate of the school, near Ayefele House, Iyana-Church in Egbeda Local Government Area, Ibadan.

The driver of the bus, Mr. Serif Oyedele, said he was conveying the children to school when the vehicle suddenly stopped working at Iyana-Church.

Oyedele said he pleaded with the older pupils to assist in push-

ing the bus, having discovered that its battery was weak. The children who were pushing the vehicle escaped unhurt. The injured were taken in a commercial cab and motorcycles to the hospital.

A combined team of men of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) and policemen from Monatan Police Station also assisted in the rescue operation.

An FRSC official, Mr. Adekanye Oluwafemi, confirmed that 21 kids were affected by the fire and that the bus was an 18-seater Mitsubishi.