

# MANY DIE AS TANKER RUNS OVER VEHICLES IN ZUBA



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Many people lost their lives while dozen others were injured in a fatal accident that occurred Saturday evening at Zuba in Gwagwalada Area Council of the FCT.

Residents and witnesses put the number of the dead at 30 but police and FRSC authorities in the area said only six people lost their lives and that twelve persons sustained injuries.

A witness said the accident happened when a tanker coming from Madalla axis lost control and ran over some vehicles parked at a place used as bus stop.

The witness added that the accident affected two high capacity buses, six other vehicles and seven motorcycles.

According to the witness, hawkers and motorcyclists were the major victims of the accident.

The Zuba divisional police officer, Chief Superintendent Femi Adelegan and Zuba unit commander of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), Akpotobo Meregebe, confirmed the accident, saying they both participated in the evacuation of the dead and injured ones with other sympathizers.

They both insisted that the casualties figures were over blown.

The Zuba Divisional Police Officer said a tanker with registration number, XA 340 RBC coming from Madalla axis, failed break and hit an Urban Mass Bus marked A197, three Golf cars with registration numbers AT 529 ABC, SBG 418 AA, RAN 208 AA, a Sienna car with registration number GX 135 ABC and three unmarked motorbikes.

He said the driver of the tanker escaped, adding that he personally took the dead bodies and about 19 injured people to the University of Abuja Teaching Hospital at Gwagwalada.

The police officer however said more people are still dying from the incident.

This figures however differed from those given by many people interviewed at the scene. A witness, one Gbenga Adedeji, said he sighted about 30 likely dead bodies shortly after the incident happened while many others were believed to be trapped in three other vehicles involved in the accident.

One Usman Shehu, a driver who said he escaped the accident by the whiskers, told our reporter at the scene that the number of the dead persons surpassed thirty.

He said he alone with other persons had counted about 36 which were evacuated by some volunteers, who made available some vehicles that took the bodies in no less than five trips to the hospital.

A resident of the area, Sulaiman Shuaibu, blamed the incident on wrong parking by the

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affected vehicles, adding that the ill-fated tanker which was coming on high speed did not have enough space to pass through in order to avoid the accident.

Speaking on the illegal bus stop, the Zuba divisional police office, Chief Superintendent Femi Adelagan, said it was after the accident, he got an order from FCT Police command to rid the area of parking, adding that the operation would also include other places used as bus stops in different roads in the town.

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