



8 BURNT TO DEATH AS BUS CATCHES FIRE ON ABUJA-LOKOJA ROAD

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Eight persons were burnt to death in a commercial bus that caught fire last week at Omoko village, on the Abuja-Lokoja expressway.

Our reporter learnt that 13 other passengers, four female and nine male, who sustained various degrees of burns, were taken to the hospital.

A witness said the incident happened around 12:30 p.m. after the driver of an unmarked commuter bus lost control and plunged into a ditch while on speed.

He said the bus driver veered off the road after a tyre burst and it crashed into a ditch, catching fire instantly.

"Only 13 out of the 21 passengers on board could be rescued due to the flames, while eight other passengers including the driver were trapped and burnt beyond recognition," he said.

When contacted, the Abaji unit commander of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Assistant Corps Commander, Moses A. Audu, confirmed the incident and attributed it to tyre burst and over speeding.

He said 21 passengers were in the bus, while eight persons including the driver were burnt beyond recognition and 13 others escaped with various degrees of burns.

He said five of the passengers, who suffered burns were taken to Abaji General Hospital, while another five were taken to the University of Abuja Teaching Hospital at Gwagwalada, and the remaining three taken to Rhema Foundation Hospital at Kwali.

"The eight passengers that were burnt to death were later buried at the scene through the combined effort of policemen from Chikara division after some relatives came," he said.

When City News reporter visited Rhema Hospital at Kwali on Sunday, a nurse said that the three victims were later referred to Abuja National Hospital, due to the high degree of injuries they sustained.

In a similar incident, four persons were injured in another motor accident on Saturday morning at Gada-Biyu village, on the Abuja-Lokoja expressway.

A witness said the accident happened around 6:23 a.m. when a J5 Peugeot bus with registration number XC 385 WDL veered off the road and crashed into a ditch after a tyre burst.

He said those injured were rescued by sympathisers and were taken to Abaji General Hospital for attention.

The Abaji unit commander of the FRSC, Moses Audu, confirmed the accident, saying the victims were rescued by his men at the scene and attributed the accident to over speeding and tyre burst.

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