

15 students, 4 others killed in Lagos, Ogun, Anambra crashes

Eugene Agha, Yvonne Ugwuezuoha (Lagos), Peter Moses (Abeokuta) & Titus Eleweke (Awka)

2 Pandemonium broke out yesterday at Ojodu and Ogba areas of Lagos when a truck veered off the road and killed no fewer than 15 students of Babs Fafunwa Millennium School, Agidingbi who were waiting at the bus stop after school hours.

Many others students injured in the accident were rushed to some hospitals in the area for urgent medical attention.

Eyewitnesses said the truck driver was trying to flee from officials of the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA) for violating traffic law when it ran over the students.

"After seeing the magnitude of the damage caused, the truck driver increased the speed but the vehicle was pursued by some commercial motorcycle (okada) riders, who caught up with him adjacent to Excellence Hotel Ogba.

"The driver on sighting the irate protesters jumped down and took to his heels.

"The charged crowd surged forward towards Ogba Police Station where the driver ran into. Frustrated by their inability to apprehend him, the mob descended on the truck and shattered its windscreen," the source said.

Not satisfied, a police officer told our correspondent that the mob set the truck ablaze and also attempted to set other trucks on fire "but the massive reinforcement of the police from Rapid Response Squad (RRS), Area G Command, Ogba, Iju and Ojodu divisions saved the situation."

Lagos State Police Public Relations Officer, Adekunle Ajisebutu, in a statement

said two males died on spot while seven females and five males sustained varying degree of injuries.

He, however, said the truck driver had been arrested while the men of the RRS had been deployed in the area to restore normalcy.

The RRS on its Facebook page said the truck veered off as a result of a brake failure and unfortunately rammed into the students.

3 In another accident on Lagos-Abeokuta Expressway, two persons reportedly died in an accident involving a truck and a motorcycle.

The accident occurred at Oni and Sons Bus stop in Arigbajo, Ifo along the expressway.

The Public Relations Officer (PRO) of Ogun State Traffic Compliance and Enforcement Corps (TRACE), Mr Babatunde Akinbiyi, said the accident occurred around 8:15pm on Monday.

He added that the two victims were the rider and the passenger of the motorcycle with registration no: TRE 301 VV.

He gave the number plate of the Iveco Truck as KNN 357 ZY.

4 Also, two persons died yesterday morning when a Toyota Corolla rammed into a stationed truck in Ogbunike in Uyi Local Government Area along Onitsha-Awka Expressway in Anambra State.

The Sector Commander of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) in the state, Adeoye Irelewuyi, said families had claimed the bodies of the deceased.

He said the accident involved a Howo Tipper with no registration number and a Toyota Corolla with registration number HTE 365 CU.