

11 killed, 20 vehicles burnt in tanker explosion

**From Tijani Labaran,
Lokoja**

Eleven persons have been confirmed killed when an articulated vehicle suffered a brake failure and rammed into a gas laden tanker abandoned at Ochadamu Highway on Itobe-Anyigba Road in Ofu Local Government Area of Kogi State.

The Sector Commander of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) in Kogi State, Stephen Dawulung, who confirmed the incident on Thursday, stated that the

eleven bodies recovered were burnt beyond recognition.

He added that the seven others who were injured had been taken to hospitals at Ochadamu and Ajaokuta.

He added that 12 cars, a tanker, a truck and six motorcycles were burnt to ashes in the accident.

Locals said trouble started when a soldier allegedly seized the cellphone of a truck driver whom he

accused of filming him during an argument with a Sienna bus driver at a military checkpoint.

It was gathered that the alleged Sienna bus driver had refused to stop at the checkpoint when he was flagged down by the military men.

In the melee that followed, the driver of the gas laden tanker drove his vehicle and crossed the road,

abandoned it there and left for an unknown location.

Thereafter, the truck carrying coal was said to have suffered brake failure and rammed into the gas laden tanker which led to an explosion.

As of the time of filing this report, the highway was blocked and closed to traffic forcing travellers from Lokoja to the East to make a detour to the Idah by-pass.

Coming soon