

# 18 Borno passengers burnt to death in Bauchi auto crash

From Hassan Ibrahim  
(Bauchi)

**N**o fewer than 18 people were burnt beyond recognition in a head-on collision involving a Hiace bus and a trailer at Nabardo village along the busy Bauchi-Jos Road.

Among the victims were two female soldiers travelling for condolences over the loss of their father in Askira Uba town in Borno State and a medical doctor.

Sector Commander of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) in Bauchi

State, Yusuf Abdullahi, told *Daily Trust* that the accident, which occurred on Wednesday around 4:40pm, involved a Toyota Hiace bus with registration number FKJ 668 YC and a trailer with registration number FKE 688 YC.

He explained that 21 people, comprising 18 adults and three children, were involved in the accident.

"Unfortunately, the driver and all 17 passengers of the bus were burnt to ashes," he said.

"The accident happened in a bush where there were no people around to

render assistance to the victims. The moment the accident occurred, the bus went into flames and the entire occupants burnt to ashes, as you can't identify anyone of them."

Abdullahi further disclosed that the mass burial of the victims' ashes was carried out by the Nigeria Police Force Social Welfare officers.

The sector commander, however, advised road users to always be conscious of traffic rules and regulations while plying the roads.

He urged vehicle owners and drivers to ensure

having good tyres, driving at average speed, routine vehicle maintenance and sound state of mind.

Investigation revealed that the bus belonged to a transport company, Chinanda Nigeria Limited.

When contacted via phone, a director of the transport company in Lagos, Emmanuel Elijah, told *Daily Trust* that the bus left Lagos Tuesday for Askira Uba.

He said the company had contacted the families of the victims except those of the two soldiers.

"Majority of the passengers were our

relatives from Askira Uba, and we have reached out to families, and many of them are on their way to the scene of the accident to see for themselves.

"The female soldiers are travelling for condolences over the death of their father in Askira Uba. They were the only passengers that I am yet to contact their families because the bus picked them up at a military barracks in Akure, Ondo State.

"I am also affected as the owner of the vehicle because my family members too were among the passengers.

"As I am talking to you, I am on my way to the Bauchi village where the accident happened. Although before I left Lagos I learnt that a mass burial was carried out on the victims by the security agents because they said that the entire passengers were burnt beyond recognition.

"Despite the mass burial, I want to go and see for myself because the families of those passengers that we were able to speak with have agreed with the decision of the mass burial. We are now in deep mourning," he said.

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