

Taraba auto crash kill 10 as 15 passengers kidnapped 1

**From Magaji Isa
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Ten passengers were killed in an auto crash along Serti-Bali Road in Taraba State on Monday when a bus conveying twenty-two passengers from Gembu to Jalingo crashed at Garbabi close to Bali town.

Daily Trust gathered that the driver of the bus lost control at a sharp bend near Garbabi town, leading to the crash.

An elderly woman with her two children was among the 10 passengers who died on the spot, while eight others in the bus sustained serious injuries.

The bodies and injured were rushed to Bali General Hospital.

Similarly, 15 passengers were abducted and taken to the forest between Donga and Maraban Baissa in Donga Local Government Area of the state on Monday.

The passengers, including women and children, were travelling from Zaki-Biam in Benue State to Maihula town in Bali Local Government Area of the

state when they ran into a roadblock mounted by the kidnappers.

It was further gathered that other passengers, including the driver, escaped into the bush and trekked to Maihula town, about 100 kilometres from the scene of the incident.

A resident of Maihula town, Musa Tanko, told Daily Trust that all the passengers were residents of Maihula town and were on their way back to Maihula from Zaki-Biam when they ran into a roadblock set up by gunmen suspected to be kidnappers in a bush near Maraban Baissa.

He said the 15 abducted passengers were still in captivity, while the driver and other passengers who escaped reached Maihula through a bush path, leaving the bus at the scene of the incident.

The spokesman of the Taraba State Police Command, SP Usman Abdullahi, could not be reached for comment on the two incidents as his line was disconnected when our reporter called him.