

10 die in petrol tanker accidents

From Niyi Bello, Akure

FIVE persons were confirmed killed in two separate incidents involving articulated vehicles in Ore, Odigbo Local Council and Akure, Ondo State capital, yesterday.

In Akure, five persons were killed at different spots when an empty tanker, which was said to have earlier knocked down a pedestrian, who died on the spot, at Ogbese on the Akure-Owo road, was chased by irate youths to the Benin Garage in Akure where more havoc was wreaked by the fleeing driver.

And in Ore, two persons were burnt to death when a broken-down but fuel-laden tanker, from which a crowd was scooping petrol, burst into flame. Eight others, who were said to have sustained various degrees of burns, have been taken to the Obafemi Awolowo Teaching Hospital in Ile-Ife, Osun State, for treatment.

In the Akure incident, the driver lost control of the long tanker when some of the youths threw a plank on its path and it rammed into a commercial motorcyclist before plunging into the garage to crush a vehicle said to belong to the Chairman of the Ifon Unit of the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) at the motor park.

Although the driver of the vehicle which was on the exit lane of the park was said to have jumped out when he saw the approaching trailer, the motorcyclist and another person, who was said to be the secretary of the chairman, were crushed to death on the spot.

When *The Guardian* visited the scene, officers of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) were seen removing the corpses from the scene but the driver of the vehicle was said to have escaped during the confusion.

The Ore incident, which was confirmed by Chairman of the Odigbo Council, Olu Falolu and the police, occurred at Orita-Ojo area of the council, a notorious route for illegal bunkerers of petroleum products who operate clandestinely in the oil-producing creeks of Ondo State.