

Five die in Akure auto crash

TRAGEDY struck in Akure, Ondo State capital, as no fewer than five people were burnt to death in a multiple road accident in Uso along Akure/Owo Expressway on Tuesday night.

A source told *The Guardian* that the carnage involved a luxury bus, a Toyota Hiace bus marked Kano AG76MUZ and a truck marked XA928BY loaded with pepper.

From Julius Alabi, Akure

It was learnt that the accident was caused by a group of armed robbers who threw a plank full of nails under the trailer loaded with pepper, which forced the truck to stop abruptly in the middle of the road.

As the driver of the luxury bus, which was coming from the Akure end was trying to avoid the truck, the vehicle

rammed into the Toyota bus, which immediately ignited fire.

In the process, the bus was burnt while the occupants on the luxury bus escaped for their lives.

The fire, which lasted for several hours, consumed the bus and also extended to the luxury bus.

When *The Guardian* visited the scene of the accident yesterday, there was no sign that

any passenger died in the luxury bus but five bodies were found in the Toyota Hiace bus.

Rescue workers such as men of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) and policemen were seen at the scene of the accident while the truck, which was attacked by the robbers as it covered over half of the road thereby making it difficult for motorists to move, impeded vehicular movement.