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Saturday, May 16, 2009

70 Feared Killed In Edo Auto Crash

From Alemma-Ozioruva Aliu, Benin

IT was yet another tragic yesterday, as no fewer than 70 persons were feared dead in an accident on the Okene-Auchi-Benin road.

The burnt bodies were later given a mass burial with the assistance of the local council, Police and FRSC.

The accident, which occurred shortly after the Irrua Specialist Teaching Hospital gate, involved a luxury bus said to be travelling from Sokoto to Port Harcourt.

Eyewitness account said the bus rammed into a stationary truck, which apparently developed fault and had no caution sign on the road.

The Guardian gathered that many of the dead victims were burnt beyond recognition while many of the survivors had severe burns.

The Zonal Commander, Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), Zakari Nda though did not confirm the number of dead victims, he said the accident was "very fatal."

He confirmed that the accident involved a luxury bus fully loaded with passengers and that it ran into a stationary tanker.

As at yesterday morning when The Guardian contacted Nda, he said, "the bus is still burning. Survivors and dead cannot be ascertained now until the fire subsides. I am at the scene. Fire service has been contacted, it is a horrible scene," he said.

Last Saturday, about 14 traders who were on their way to Onitsha lost their lives in Agbede bridge axis of the same road in Etsako West when their bus had a collision with a J5 bus.

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