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Friday, June 26, 2009

14 die in Edo robbery, road mishaps*From Alemma-Ozioruva Aliu, Benin*

THIRTEEN persons were feared dead in two road accidents in Edo State on Wednesday as robbers killed one person at the Benin bye-pass.

Twelve of the victims, among them, a year-old child, were said to be travelling in an 18-seater bus from Lagos to Benin when the accident involving two trucks happened at Igbogi, near Okada in Edo State.

The Zonal Commander, Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), Zakari Nda, who confirmed the accident, said it occurred on Wednesday at 5 p.m. He said the bus was travelling on one side of the road and in an attempt to overtake a truck, it ran into another on-coming truck.

The other side of the road in that axis of Benin-Ore Road is in a bad shape, making vehicles to use the only motorable lane.

Nda gave the numbers of vehicles involved in the accident as XB 245 JRT, MACK model truck, XE 980 JJN for Man Diesel truck and XA 598 KMR for the bus. The bus, he said, was squeezed and burnt to the extent that it could not be immediately recognised

He said that the 12 persons who died in the accident were made up of nine males, two females and a child while three males sustained injuries.

He said two of the dead were burnt beyond recognition while the remains of 10 others have been deposited at the mortuary of the University of Benin Teaching Hospital (UBTH).

Also, one person died in another accident at Irua-Uzebba near Irukepken in Edo Central Local Council when a man travelling in a Bushi Monterio sports car marked DB 06 LSD lost control as a result of a burst tyre.

Nda said the victim was deposited at Uzebba General Hospital.

Meanwhile, robbers who struck at the Benin by-pass yesterday morning allegedly killed one person.

Also on Wednesday, a manager of an indigenous construction company, Setraco, identified as Imohi Sunday was reportedly kidnapped in Auchi, Etsako West Local Council.

The Guardian learnt that Imohi was abducted by some gunmen around 5.30 p.m. on Wednesday while driving into his residence at the Water Board Area of Auchi and taken to an

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unknown destination.

However, the state command of the Nigeria police had refused to comment formally on the incident, but a senior police officer in Auchi confirmed the incident.

The state police command spokesperson could not be reached for comments as his phone was said not to be unavailable.

Early this month, a medical doctor and his three kids were abducted by gunmen in the same area and held for almost a week before they were released after an undisclosed amount of money was paid as ransom.

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