

# 18 die, one injured in Niger auto crash

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*Governor Abubakar Sani Bello of Niger. Photo: TWITTER/ABUSBELLO*

No fewer than 18 people were burnt alive, while one was injured in an auto crash, involving an 18-seater Toyota bus and a Truck (tipper) at the Gidan-Mangoro area, along Minna-Bida road, Minna, Niger State.

The accident, which occurred on Saturday night, was said to have involved a Kano Line bus enroute Kano from Lagos, which collided with a broken-down truck on the highway.

According to an eyewitness, almost the entire occupants of the bus, including children and the driver met their untimely death as they were burnt beyond recognition, while their charred bodies were mangled.

It was gathered that the broken down truck was almost at the centre of the busy Minna-Bida road without any sign to indicate danger for other road users hence the bus rammed into it and busted into flames causing the death of the occupants.

Contacted, Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Niger Command, Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Wasiu Abiodun, confirmed the incident.

He said the only survivor of the accident is receiving treatment at an undisclosed health facility in Minna.

Wasiu told newsmen that 18 persons were confirmed dead when the bus apparently at high speed ran into the parked truck, hence almost all the occupants were burnt beyond recognition.

While cautioning travellers against embarking on night journeys due to inherent dangers, the PPRO said bodies of the victims have been given mass burial yesterday at Gidan-Mangoro burial ground, in the outskirt of Minna metropolis where the incident occurred.