Auto Crashes Claim 12 On Third Mainland Bridge

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At least 12 people were feared dead on Monday in motor accidents that occurred on the Third Mainland Bridge in Lagos.

Apart from those that lost their lives, several others were injured in the early morning accidents.

It was learnt that the two auto crashes occurred at different locations on the bridge, which eyewitnesses attributed to human errors.

The first accident occurred around 8a.m. when a commercial bus on top speed somersaulted at the Oworonsoki axis of the Third Mainland Bridge. About eight people were reported dead in the accident, including a secondary school student.

The 14-passenger Volkswagen Fagaron bus marked Lagos XP 492 LND, which took off from Oyingbo was going to Gbagada when it suddenly lost control and somersaulted between the end of the bridge and Oworonshoki bus stop.

It hung in-between the iron railing, which prevented it from plunging into the lagoon.

"The driver of the bus was on top speed and on getting to the Oworonsoki axis, he made attempt to stop but he could not control the vehicle. The bus somersaulted several times," an eyewitness said.

He also said he counted about eight corpses on the ground while several people were injured.

The second accident happened about 9a.m. when a private car scaled the bridge's railing and plunged into the sea.

It was also learnt that about four people were in the car as at the time of the accident, which occurred at the Adekunle intersection of the Third Mainland Bridge.

Rescue divers were still combing the lagoon when *Daily Independent* visited, just as there were fears that all the occupants of the car might have drowned.

When contacted, the Lagos State Police Public Relations Officer, Olubode Ojajuni, said only three people died.

The two accidents created traffic jam on the bridge as officials of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) and the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA) battled to control traffic.