

35 Die On Ife, Lafia Road Accidents

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Thirty-five more people died in two separate road mishaps at the weekend, less than 24 hours after the one that claimed about 20 on Ibadan-Ife, in Osun State, road on Thursday.

In fact, one of the latest incidents was said to have taken place at exactly the same spots in the Osun case, this time killing 15.

The fresh accident involved four vehicles, which rammed into the uncleared corpses of those involved in Thursday's incident.

The vehicles include two trailers, a commercial Peugeot

504 and another trailer loaded with cement.

Sunday Independent gathered that one of the trailers lost control and crashed into the trailers loaded with soft drinks which was already involved in the previous accident but yet to be removed.

All the passengers in the Peugeot perished and their corpses have been deposited at the Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospital (OAUTH), Ile-Ife. The state commandant of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), Haldu Baba, could not be reached for explanation on why the corpses of the vehicles were yet to be removed 24 hours after the first incident.

One of the early callers at the

spot of the accident, Dr. Peter Babalola, who is also the Chief of Staff to Osun State Governor, decried the development that led to the fresh accident.

He pleaded with men of the FRSC to assist in evacuating the carcasses of the vehicles, as more people would be travelling on the road towards the coming festivities.

Also No fewer than 20 people were feared dead in an auto crash involving a *Benue Links'* 18-seater bus and a Mercedes Benz car at Kadarko, along Lafia-Makurdi road on Saturday.

Both vehicles ended up submerged in water at the sharp bend where the accident occurred.

Although the accident was suspected to have occurred in the early hours of the day, the relevant authorities had fished out only eight bodies from the vehicles as at the time of filing this report.

Police sources who spoken with *Sunday Independent*, said they were yet to identify victims of the accident, their takeoff point as well as destination.

But from their identical attire, suspicion is that they were either heading for or returning from an occasion. Their remains, however, could not be deposited at the Dalhatu Araf Specialist Hospital (DASH) in Lafia as its mortuary could not accommodate them.