

22 feared dead in Lagos Ore road mishap

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NO FEWER than 22 persons, including six children, were on Monday killed in an automobile accident at the Step-Down area of the Ore end of the Benin-Shagamu Expressway.

The crash involved a passenger bus and a trailer.

An eyewitness stated that a loud sound with accompanying fire was heard by passers-by when an 18-seater Toyota Haice commercial bus with registration number LAGOS XK 501 EKY collided with a trailer with registration number DELTA XN 563 KWL.

According to reports, the driver of the passenger bus belonging to Orient Global Tours Limited was driving against traffic when the accident occurred.

In an attempt to squeeze itself through a narrow space he

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reportedly ran the vehicle into a trailer with registration number XN563KWL.

A source said the vehicles caught fire instantly, making it impossible for any rescue operation, "as we thought it was a bomb blast which made

everyone at the scene to run for their lives".

The bus which was said to be travelling to Okposi in Ebonyi State from Lagos reportedly went up in flames first, burning all the 13 passengers on board beyond recognition.

Seven passersby were also hit

in the process.

Of the seven persons crushed, according to the FRSC Unit Commander in Ore, Michael Arinzeagu, three died on the spot while four were rushed to the Opeyemi Hospital, Ore, where one later died while the remaining

three are now receiving treatment.

It was also learnt that the accident held up traffic for several hours, rendering one side of the dual carriageway impassable.

Hundreds of people later besieged the scene of the ac-

cident, wailing and gnashing their teeth.

Police Public Relation Officer (PPRO), Adeniran Aremu, who confirmed the incident, said he received a signal from the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) in Ore, briefing the command about the accident.