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Ten feared dead in Onitsha motor accident

By Chukwujekwu Ilozue

REPORTER, Onitsha

FRIENDS and relations of most of the victims in an auto crash which occurred at Upper-Iweka axis of Onitsha at the weekend have continued to search for their loved ones involved in the crash.

The accident occurred late Saturday evening and it is believed that over 10 persons lost their lives while about 20 sustained various degrees of injuries.

By Monday some of the relations of the victims said they were yet to find their loved ones believed to be involved in the accident.

The accident victims were taken to different hospitals in Onitsha and environ including St. Charles Borromeo hospital, General hospital Onitsha, Iyi-Enu hospital Ogidi and Nnamdi Azikiwe University Teaching Hospital (NAUTH), Nnewi.

The accident occurred when over four mini-buses and a tricycle travelling outside Onitsha rammed into one another thus occasioning the tragedy.

Eye witnesses said the accident occurred when the driver of a big lorry that was coming from the Borromeo round-about and heading to Upper Iweka area along the Onitsha/ Enugu Expressway had a brake failure as it descended the hill leading to the Expressway resulting in loss of control by the driver.

It thereafter rammed into the vehicles.

Tears flowed freely as lifeless bodies of those who died in the accident were evacuated to the morgue and nearby hospitals by the police led by the Onitsha Police Area Commander, Mr. Benjamin Wordu and other officers.

The driver of the ill-fated lorry absconded as soon as the accident occurred.

Confirming the incident, the Police Commander said, "Seven people died, a woman and six others. We took the corpse of one of the dead people to Borromeo hospital morgue while one other person was placed on the intensive unit. We tried to clear the road to avoid another accident because this is a busy road", he added.