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MONDAY, AUGUST 16, 2010 4:20:49

## Auto Crash: 30 Killed In Lagos

Written by George Okojie, Lagos

Sunday, 15 August 2010 20:20

Over 30 people in the early hours of yesterday lost their lives in a ghastly motor accident that occurred in the ever busy Lagos-Ibadan Expressway, leaving about 15 vehicles burnt beyond recognition.

The accident, which happened at about 10.35 in the morning, involved an articulated truck and several other vehicles, including saloon cars and buses conveying passengers to other neighbouring states.

A driver, who escaped death by the whiskers in the road mishap told LEADERSHIP at the gory scene of the accident that the accident was caused by some police officers who closed one lane of the road, while mounting road block on the other side.

The driver who identified himself as Rasheed Adeniji said he lost his younger brother who served as a bus conductor in the accident that took the lives of many travellers within a twinkle of eye.

According to him, "We were again in a serious traffic here on this spot this yesterday, where the police officers used to collect 20 naira from us and pursue people importing with second-hand cars, also known as 'Tokunbo'. All of a sudden, we just heard a big bang at the back, before I knew it, fire had engulfed the whole place.

"I quickly managed to come out of the motor and ran to the other side, where I saw a trailer that rammed into the long queue of vehicles waiting to be cleared by the police officers. People started running here and there. I looked around, I did not see my conductor, my own brother. I rushed back to the bus which at this time was in flames along with many other vehicles that caught fire. I started shouting for help from people to bring out my passengers, about 18 of them, including my brother. As I am talking to you now, they could not come out; they all burnt to ashes" Adeniji lamented.

Another eye witness, who identified himself as Solomon Michael, corroborated the story of Adeniji, adding that the trailer loaded with foams and some combustible materials lost control as a result of brake failure and ran into the vehicular traffic.

"The trailer was on top speed with heavy load. This bridge, you know, is a little bit slopy and he was still running on top speed. It is like his brake failed and he lost control of the trailer. The next thing we heard was a loud noise and fire everywhere, vehicles and people burning. It is a very sad development. Why would the police come and close one way in this kind of place and mount road block, collecting money? This kind of accident has happened so many times. The government does not want to address the issue. May be because their own people are not involved yet," he lamented.



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- Harry Akande



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## Comments

#1 **Olutoyin adeyinka** 2010-08-16 07:29

I am reeling in pain and agony for the precious lost of lives due to the carelessness of the illegal check points on our roads and couple with lack of good roads maintenance by the government despite huge funds voted for the sector. Under the erstwhile civilian regime, 300 billion was voted for roads maintenance but alas, the people are dying every hour and every seconds.

I am sure the patience of the citizen will soon run out if urgent measures are not put in place to stem the tide of lack of insentiveness on the part of govt to the plight and yearnings of the people. When will this the dream be realised.

Quote

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