

47 killed in Lagos-Ibadan expressway inferno

IT was a horrifying scene yesterday, along Lagos-Ibadan Expressway, when a fuel tanker rammed into two 18-seater buses, leaving at least 47 dead.

The accident that occurred at Aiyetoro-Cele Junction, along the Expressway, Friday night, left several others injured.

The situation was made worse when the tanker

**Ernest Nwokolo,
Ijebu-Ode**

went up in flame, and ensured that some of the bodies were burnt beyond recognition.

A private car was also involved in the accident bringing the total number of vehicles involved to four.

The nation reports that many of the victims died right there inside the vehi-

cles, as others who made escaping attempt died painfully outside.

A lady and a young boy about 18 years old managed to take a plunge out of the bus and into the surrounding bush with flame on their bodies but the bushes already wet with the spilled fuel from the Tanker quickly caught fire and consumed the duo.

The case of one huge woman who risked jumping out of one of the buses inflame and dashed into the Highway in desperate attempt to cheat death, was quite chilling.

Out of the bus into the open space suffused with fuel, she too caught fire, became a huge ball of moving flame and collapsed on the Highway. There, she

died.

THE NATION counted Nine charred bodies of victims who were burnt beyond recognition.

The eyewitness said some have been removed.

At least, three of the bodies may not be identified unless a DNA Test is carried out on them.

In the commotion and confusion that ensued for hours on end, and with

visibility affected by the thick balls of flame and smoke that covered the Highway, vehicles coming from either sides of the road bunched - up blindly near the accident spot making escape or rescue effort near impossible.

Members of the Road Safety Commission laboured to control the traffic that became snarling and nightmarish even as they

struggled to be of one help or the other to some of the victims.

By 1pm yesterday, the remains of some of the charred bodies were yet to be evacuated, leaving a gory and pitiable sight on the Highway.

Speculations were rife that two of the affected vehicles which were burnt beyond identification were Ijebu - Ode and Aiyeye bound buses both communities are in Ogun state.

It was a pathetic situation to behold as on lookers watched painfully and helplessly from a safe distance as victims trapped in their burning vehicles groaned and wailed desperately, crying for help but none came.

When contacted, Ogun State Police Public Officer, Mr. Femi Awoyele, DSP, confirmed the story, which he described as horrible.

