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Eight killed in Edo road crash

■ Two-year old girl, two others survive

EIGHT people were killed yesterday in a road crash in Aviele, Etsako Local Government Area of Edo State.

Ten others were seriously injured but a two-year old baby girl was among the three survivors. The condition of the baby's mother could not however be immediately ascertained.

The bus, an 18-seater Toyota Hiace, took off from Igarra and was headed for Benin City. It belonged to Genesis Line and bore registration number Edo AA 597 HER.

From John Mayaki, Benin

The accident scene, littered with human parts, was a gory sight. The bus was said to have crashed into a stationary heavy duty vehicle (a trailer) marked Delta XB907WWR, which was on fire.

Some of the victims are believed to be students of Auchu Polytechnic because the bus reportedly picked majority of its passengers from the school gate. It took off from Igarra with few passengers.

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ALLEGED LOOT: BRITAIN I

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NEWS

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Eyewitnesses said the bus, which probably lost control because of suspected brake failure, first crushed to death a bystander who was watching those attempting to put out the fire on the burning trailer. It then slammed its passengers' side to a side of the trailer which itself was loaded with milled granite.

The impact of crashing into the trailer tore the door of the bus. Following this, some of the passengers fell off. Others were flung far away.

But the bus still did not come to a halt. It rolled on, dragging some of the victims along for almost two kilometers.

There was wailing by sympathizers when a wom-

an's body part was seen on the highway while the other part was found inside the bus, a few metres away.

A survivor, Miss Frances Nwane, a student of the Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, said the driver was apparently over speeding and refused to heed the warning by passengers to slow down.

"He was trying to control the vehicle but the brake failed. That was how it hit people standing along the road until we got to this place where the vehicle stopped and I came out through the window."

She added: "I didn't know what was going on. When I came out through the window, I came there to sit down."