

Another truck kills two pupils in Ilorin

TWO secondary school pupils have been crushed to death in Ilorin, Kwara State, when a heavy-duty truck conveying a bulldozer ran into them on Sobi Barracks Road.

The incident, which came less than three weeks after a similar incident led to the death of about five persons in the Challenge area of the metropolis, threw the surrounding community into pandemonium as the pupils embarked on a rampage lasting several hours and blocked the entire road, which is a bye-pass for vehicles going to the northern part of the country. About 16 persons, including a senior staff of the school, were picked up by the police for their alleged role in the rampage.

Eyewitness accounts said the deceased were pupils of Government Day Secondary School, Karuma, Ilorin and were on their way to school at about 8.45 am when the messenger of death came calling, while they were walking on the road.

The vehicle was said to have been on high speed when it ran into the pupils and killed them instantly. One of them, according to eyewitnesses, had his head severed as a result of the crash, much like one of the victims of the Challenge crash.

Residents of the area and some of the pupils apparently irked by the death of the two, were said to have gone on rampage to protest the ugly incident. They were said to have ford a fuel station nearby to give them

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fuel, which they poured on the vehicle before setting it ablaze. It took the quick intervention of men of the State Fire Service before the fire could be put out.

The protest attracted some police and military men from Sobi Barracks who in the attempt to curb the rampage were said to have also engaged one another in fisticuffs. During the clash, some vehicles belonging to the army were said to have been damaged while some people also sustaining injuries.

Spokesman for the State Police Command, Mr. Markus Gideon who confirmed the incident lamented the dimension it took and warned that no government would close its eyes and see people taking laws into their hands all because of such ugly situation. He promised that those found guilty after thorough investigations would be brought to book.

Also speaking on the incident, the Permanent Secretary, State Ministry of Education, Dr. Zainab Ambali who visited both the scene and the school, said normalcy has since returned to the institution. She noted that one person is receiving treatment at the University of Ilorin Teaching Hospital (UITH). Ambali, however, said that the government would look into the cases of those arrested by the police in connection with the protest.