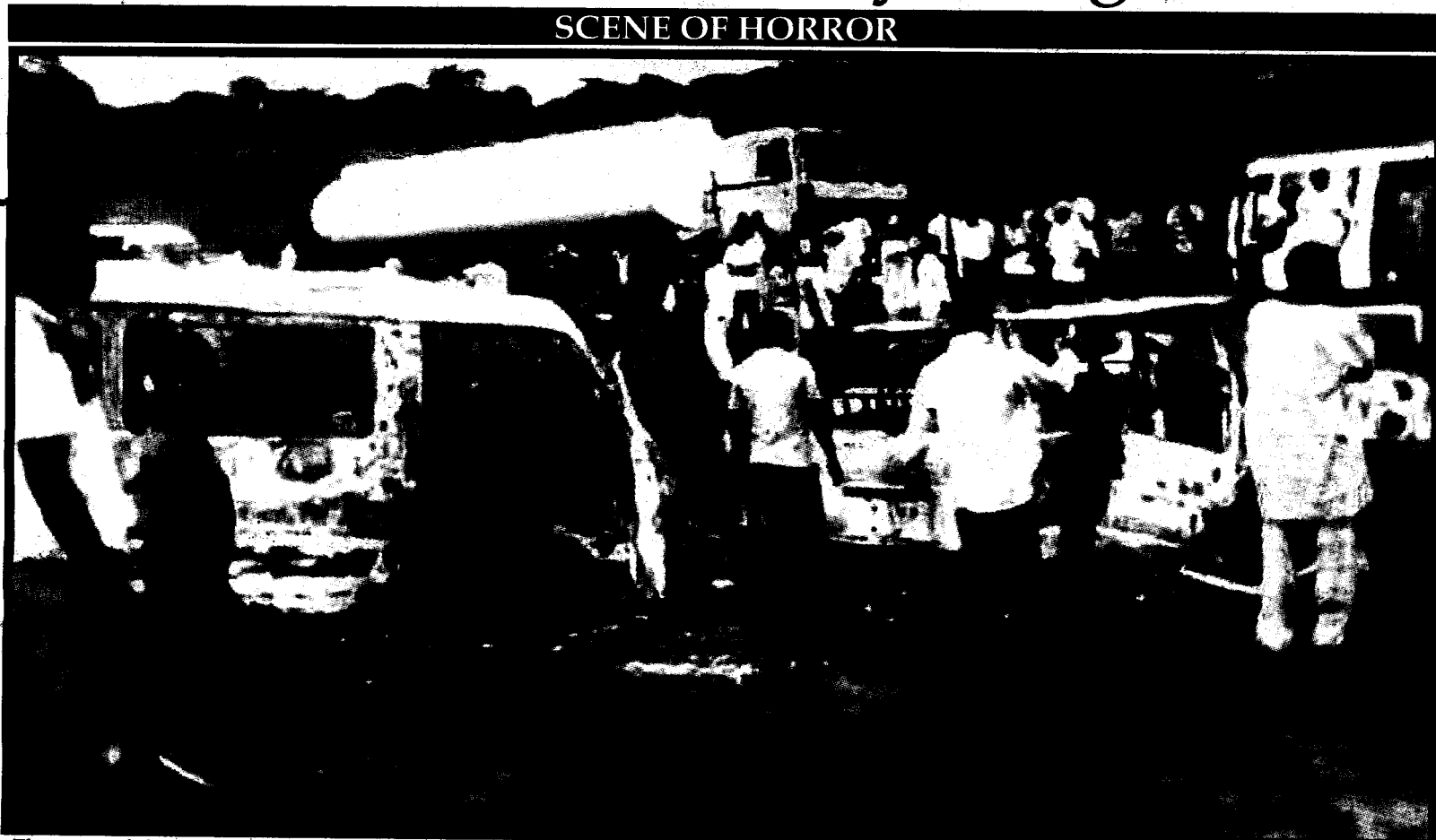


50 killed in Lagos-Ibadan expressway tanker crash

■ Police confirm 30 dead ■ Family of eight killed

It was a pathetic and horrifying sight. Passengers were trapped in their burning vehicles, groaning. Some of them were calling for help, but none came their way as nobody could dare the raging fire. They struggled in vain to escape until they were burnt.

SCENE OF HORROR



• The scene of the crash ... yesterday.

From Ernest Nwokolo,
Ijebu-Ode

night. By the time the smoke cleared, no fewer than 50 bodies lay on the scene; dead. The police said 30 died in the accident.

A petrol tanker was said

to have exploded and burnt the occupants of seven other vehicles to death.

"It was a pathetic and horrifying sight. Passengers were trapped in their burning vehicles, groaning. Some of them were calling for help, but none came

their way as nobody could dare the raging fire. They struggled in vain to escape until they were burnt," an eyewitness said.

The accident involved four passenger buses, two cars and a tanker conveying fuel from Lagos.

Twelve others, including a woman and a two-year-old child, who were injured, are being treated at the emergency unit of the Olabisi Onabanjo Teaching Hospital, Sagamu, Ogun State. Many bodies were brought in a Federal Road Safety

Commission (FRSC) patrol van to the hospital mortuary.

The Nation learnt that the accident occurred when the driver of the fuel tanker lost control, rammed into a concrete structure by the road-

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PHOTO: MEEKINESS BOLARINWA

50 dead in Lagos/ Ibadan road crash

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side and tumbled. It spilled fuel on other vehicles. There was confusion. Motorists ran into one another and the resultant spark set about seven vehicles and the surrounding bush ablaze.

The accident, which occurred near the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG) camp, also resulted in a traffic snarl which spanned several kilometres.

Officials of the FRSC, police and fire services were seen retrieving bodies from the charred vehicles and assisting in controlling the traffic.

Last Thursday, 18 passengers in a commuter bus were also killed in an accident at Ogunmakin on the expressway.

The teaching hospital in Sagamu was packed yesterday of distraught and disconsolate relations.

They cried as they beheld the remains of their relations.

Among the dead, it was learnt, were a family of eight. They were said to be travelling to Iperu-Remo, Ogun State. The state police spokesman, Femi Awoyale, a Superintendent, said more than 30 persons lost their lives.

Unusually news