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HORROR: 60 people burnt to death as tanker expodes on Lagos-Benin Expressway (PHOTOS)

Posted by [Y! City Editor](#) in [Around the Web](#) on April 6, 2013 8:43 am / [2 comments](#)

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It was a horror Friday yesterday on the Lagos-Benin and Onitsha-Owerri roads in Edo and Anambra states.

No fewer than 85 people were feared killed in two accidents.

About 60 of the victims were burnt to death in one of the accidents, which involved a cement-laden trailer, a tanker and a luxury bus at Ugbogui village on the Lagos-Benin express Road.

The Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) however confirmed 36 deaths.

The victims include the drivers and motor-boys of the trailer and the tanker as well as the driver and passengers of the bus.

It was gathered that the accident occurred at about 1:30 pm when the East-bound bus suffered a burst tyre and the driver struggled in vain to manoeuvre it out of danger.

The bus rammed into the trailer which in turn rammed into the tanker.

The tanker exploded, leaving the affected vehicles on fire.

Help for the trapped drivers and passengers was not forthcoming as the enormity of the fire made any assistance by sympathisers impossible.

Within minutes, they were burnt beyond recognition.

The fire soon spread across the road, burning 16 other vehicles, 10 motorcycles and 15 shops and stalls by the road side.

Among those burnt in one of the shops were two brothers aged four and three. They were said to be sleeping in their mother's shop when the accident occurred.



Their sister managed to escape from the inferno, but she reportedly broke her legs while running for her dear life.

Their mother, Eunice Okunyade, gave the names of her deceased children as Kesmond and Solomon.

Speaking amid tears, she said: “I was told about the fire and when I ran there, I saw my shop on fire and my children were burning inside.”

Also lost to the inferno were generators, sewing machines, fridges and auto spare parts.

An auto spare parts trader, Oyedokun Fatai, and a motor mechanic, Jimoh Olaniyi, said they were at their shops when the incident occurred.

They said they fled from the scene to escape being injured or dead.

Pastor Godwin Iyede said he parked his vehicle only to come back to see it on fire.

The incident caused a gridlock on both sides of the highway, causing motorists to divert to untarred roads to get out of the gridlock.

Officials of the Federal Road Safety Corps and policemen had a hectic time clearing the road and controlling the snarl of traffic.

The University of Benin Teaching (UBTH) rejected the remains of the victims, saying it lacked capacity to accommodate them.

Hundreds of travellers were left stranded on the road.

The other accident at Okija in Ihiala Local Government Area, Anambra State involved five vehicles and claimed 25 lives.

The accident occurred at about 2.30 pm.

Two of the mini buses belong to the Rivers State Transport Company (RTC). A trailer was said to have rammed into them and all the passengers died on the spot.

The Anambra State Sector Commander of the FRSC, Mr. Hyginus Omeje, did not pick the calls our

correspondent made to his phone yesterday.

But a staff of the agency, who would not disclose his name, confirmed the accident.

The Public Relations Officer of the Anambra State Police Command, Mr. Emeka Chukwuemeka, also confirmed the incident, but he said the casualties were not up to 25.

He said the injured had been taken to the hospital for treatment.

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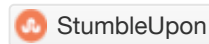
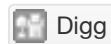
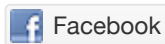


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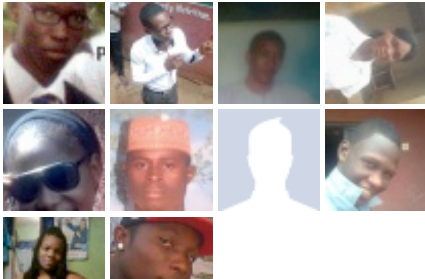
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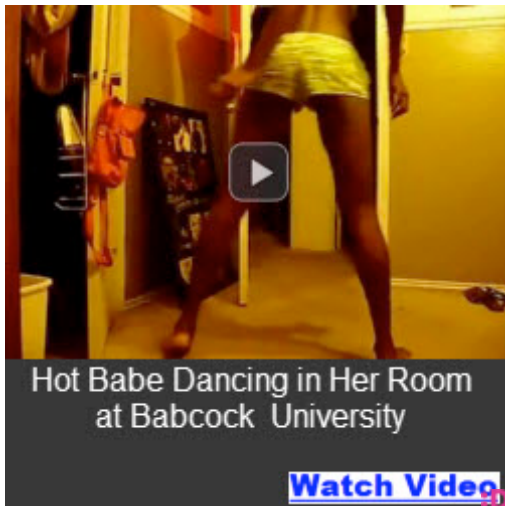
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