

Over 20 feared dead as coal truck rams petrol-laden tanker in Kogi

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ABOUT 20 people were on Thursday feared burnt to death when a truck conveying coal hit a petrol-laden tanker near Ochadamu junction, close to Idah in Kogi State.

The accident occurred at about 2:00p.m.

An eyewitness informed *Nigerian Tribune* that those who died were burnt beyond recognition, while over 30 vehicles also got burnt in the process.

The source said: "I learnt the accident was caused

following a disagreement between soldiers and tanker drivers.

"Soldiers reportedly shot two tanker drivers and their colleagues, in anger, used a tanker loaded with fuel to barricade the highway leading to Idah.

"People pleaded with the

tanker drivers to remove the tanker but they were adamant.

"Suddenly, a coal truck that was on high speed rammed the petrol tanker, causing it to explode. "The fire immediately engulfed the scene, consuming several people and vehicles."

The source said about 20 bodies, which had been severely burnt, had already been counted, while about 50 people sustained various injuries.

The Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) in the state, when contacted, said its officers were still at the spot of

the accident.

The FRSC official who spoke with the *Nigerian Tribune* also pleaded for more time to compile casualty figure.

He said: "My officers are still busy and vehicles are still burning as we speak. I will get back with detailed information as soon as possible."

Family of kidnapped