

# 19 burnt to death in Kogi auto crash

**N**INETEEN people were burnt to death following a road accident that occurred on Sunday at Okene bypass, on the Okene-Lokoja highway in Kogi State.

According to a statement by the Corps Public Education

Officer of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Jonas Agwu, emergency rescue teams endured over three hours of inferno in their bid to rescue victims at the scene of the accident.

Agwu, in the statement, said: "The FRSC emergency rescue teams deployed to

rescue the victims could not achieve desired results as the efforts they put into the rescue operations were unduly hindered by the inferno that engulfed the two vehicles.

"The crash investigation report revealed that the accident involved two vehicles comprising a truck and a Toy-

ota Hiace bus.

"The Toyota Hiace bus, loaded from Kano, was on its lane on the highway when the truck driver, who drove all the way from Port-Harcourt, wrongfully overtook a vehicle and had a head-on collision with the bus.

"The impact of the collision

resulted in an inferno that burnt the victims to death.

"According to the report, the crash, which was caused by route violation, 'One Way' and wrongful overtaking, involved 22 people, all males.

"Unfortunately, 19 people out of the 22 victims were killed and one injured.

The remaining two victims who got rescued by FRSC operatives without injuries survived the crash because they complied with traffic regulations on compulsory use of seatbelts.

"The corpses of the victims have been deposited at Okene General Hospital."