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Six family members die in Cross River crash

APRIL 8, 2013 BY MUDIAGA AFPE, CALABAR

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Tragedy struck on the Calabar-Ikom highway in Cross River State when a trailer hit a car and killed six members of a family.

The accident, which occurred Friday evening around Ehom in Biase Local Government Area, claimed the lives of four females and two males of the Osim family from Ikom in the central senatorial district of the state.

An eyewitness on Sunday said the accident happened when a Toyota Camry driven by Mr. Bernard Osim, an anaesthetic technician at the University of Calabar Teaching Hospital, tried to overtake a

vehicle at a bend.

The trailer was said to be heading for Calabar while the Osim family was travelling to Ikom when the accident occurred.

The occupants of the car, it was gathered, were related to the Special Adviser to Governor Liyel Imoke on Political Affairs, Fred Osim. The victims include Bernard, his wife, Mercy; his mother, Agada Osim; niece, Faith Odigha; younger sister, Delight Osim, and another unidentified young man.

They were said to be on their way to Ikom to distribute Delight's wedding card, which was billed for May 11.

A family source identified as John, said, "She is the last born (youngest sister) to Fred Osim. The other family members were taking her to Ikom to distribute her wedding cards scheduled for May 11. We are short of words."

The trailer driver as well as his assistant, it was gathered, fled into the bush to escape the rage of youths.

Meanwhile, officials of the Federal Road Safety Corps, led by the Itigidi Unit Commander, Mr. B. I. Abdul, had deposited the corpses at the Ugep General Hospital mortuary.

Also, the FRSC Sector Commander in the state, Mr. Yussuf Salami, said the accident was caused by dangerous overtaking.

Salami said, "The accident was caused by reckless overtaking. If someone wants to overtake, he should do so when the road is clear but if he overtakes at a blind bend without seeing oncoming vehicle, then he is likely to run into avoidable accident. That accident was avoidable."

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