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Seven die in Ibadan-bound bus fire

OCTOBER 25, 2014 BY KUNLE FALAYI 1 COMMENT

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An 18-seater bus burst into flames at the Warewa end of the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway on Friday afternoon, killing no fewer than seven of its passengers.

The bus, which was said to have taken off from the popular Oshodi motor park in Lagos, was on its way to Ibadan when the incident occurred.

Saturday PUNCH learnt that there were four children in the bus at the time of the accident. The charred body of a child was among few others, which still littered the scene of the accident at the time our correspondent got to the scene.

Sympathisers were seen removing the charred remains of some of the victims and loading them into the Federal Road Safety Corps van.

A survivor, who did not give her name, sobbed as she sat on the floor near the scene, thanking God for her escape.

She said, "The fire started just about 20 metres from here. We all heard a sound from under the bus and shortly after that, we suddenly saw fire spreading from the back of the bus.

"There was much panic inside the bus as people tried to jump out of the vehicle. Someone opened the door of the bus and jumped out. I followed immediately. If I did not do that, I would have died.

"There was a pregnant woman in the bus. She was burnt partially, but she survived and had been taken to the hospital. I remember that there were four children in the bus. The mother of the baby that got burnt survived. She was crying, asking for her baby when she was being taken to the hospital."

An eyewitness said the fuel tank of the vehicle, which disengaged from under the vehicle, caused the fire.

"The fire spread quickly and all those people died because by the time the bus stopped, the fire was too much for the people to put out," the eyewitness said.

Other eyewitnesses said that some tyres loaded inside the vehicle might have aided the spread of the fire.

Sector Commander of the Ogun State Command of the FRSC, Mr. Adegoke Adetunji, whose men conveyed the dead and injured to the Ogun State University Teaching Hospital, said he would comment on the incident after investigation.

Saturday PUNCH learnt that the dead included four females and two males.

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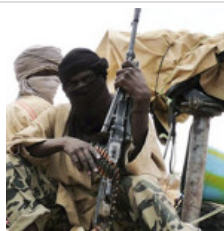
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