

# Four dead, five injured in Abia auto crash

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## Ogbonnaya Ikokwu, Umuahia

No fewer than four persons have been confirmed dead while five others were severely injured in a fatal road accident involving a commercial bus, a truck and a commercial tricycle along Ikot Epkene Road in Aba, Abia State.

It was gathered that the incident happened on Sunday when policemen at a checkpoint stopped the commercial bus with Registration Number ABC 278 XH, and demanded money from the driver, before a truck with Registration Number Lagos EKY 451 XM lost control and rammed into the bus and the tricycle.

An eyewitness, who identified himself only as Kingsley, said the policemen from Eziamu Police Station were collecting money from motorists at the Aba River Bridge checkpoint before the accident occurred.

He said, "The bus passengers were mostly women, who were coming into the town to sell vegetables and fruits.

"The bus driver was sighted giving one of the police officers N20 when they stopped him, but one of the policeman insisted that the driver must give him N50. It was in that process that the truck, which was descending the bridge lost control and rammed into the bus.

"The incident angered the people that saw how it happened. Some residents attacked the police personnel and their vehicle.

"It was in the process that the police called in army personnel at Ogbor Hill, who came and stopped the already tensed mob from going further with their actions."

Some of the survivors are receiving medical attention at the Seventh Day Adventist Hospital where the deceased were also confirmed dead.

Efforts made to speak with the Chief Medical Director of the hospital failed as he was said to be attending to some patients.

When contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer, ASP Ogbonaya Nta, confirmed the incident. He, however, denied that the loss of lives was caused by the police personnel who were on duty at the checkpoint at the time the incident happened.

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