

NEWS

Container crushes father, two sons returning from Redeemed camp

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Tragedy struck in the early hours of Saturday after a container detached from a truck and fell on a commercial bus at Ojota Bus Stop, Lagos, killing five persons.

The deceased were identified as the bus driver, whose name was given as Charles, his two children, a woman and one middle-aged man, while three others were injured.

SUNDAY PUNCH learnt that the victims had attended the Holy Ghost Service, a programme usually held on first Friday of each month, at the Redeemed Christian Church of God camp, at Lagos-Ibadan Expressway.

It was gathered that when Charles wanted to leave the camp for his Gbagada home on Saturday with his sons and two neighbours, three other worshippers begged him for a lift.

Two of the worshippers' destination was Ojota.

As Charles parked at the bus stop around 3am for the two passengers to alight from the vehicle, the container loaded with plywood suddenly fell off the truck onto the bus, and trapped all the occupants.

The truck driver reportedly fled the scene, but his motor boy was apprehended and handed over to the police.

Emergency officials, who responded to the incident, removed five corpse which were later deposited in a mortuary in Ikorodu General Hospital.

The injured were rushed to the Lagos State Accident and Emergency Centre at the old toll gate.

Our correspondent, who visited the centre, was not allowed into the wards.

However, one of the church members given a lift by Charles, simply identified as Ifeanyi, who was injured in the leg, walked out supported by his sister and spoke briefly with journalists.

He said, "He had stopped at Ojota for them (two other members of the RCCG) to alight from the bus when I suddenly heard the sound of something crashing on the bus. That

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Concerning the incident, the General Manager of LASEMA, Adesina Tiamiyu, said, "The agency's Emergency Response Team received a distress call via the CRM regarding an accident at Ojota Bus Stop. Investigation carried out by the ERT at the scene revealed that an articulated truck with number plate, AKD 663 KF, conveying a 40-foot container laden with plywood fell on a Volkswagen commercial bus (danfo), marked FST 944 XR."

The Lagos State Police Public Relations Officer, Olarinde Famous-Cole, confirmed the number of casualties.

The RCCG's Head of Media and Public Relations, Olaitan Olubiyi, said he learnt about the accident on WhatsApp, adding that the church would make efforts to locate the victims.

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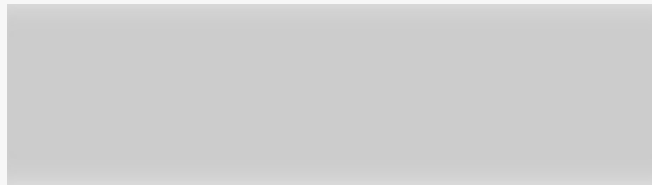
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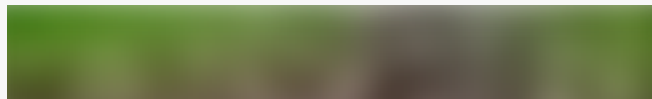
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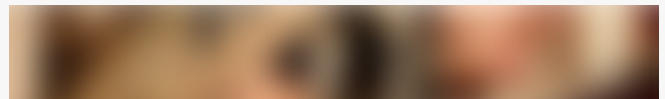
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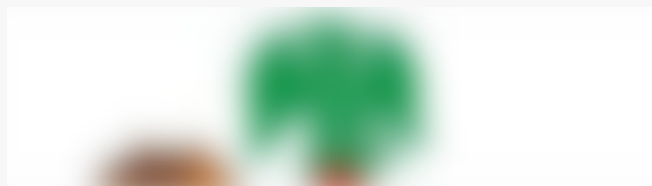
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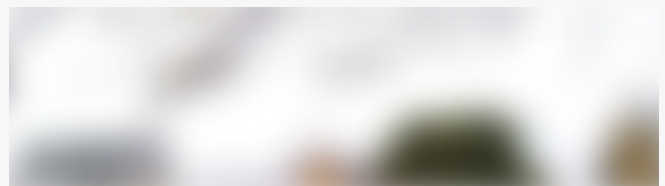
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