

Train crushes tricycle operator, three passengers to death in Lagos

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Scene of the incident

Deji Lambo

A tricycle rider and three passengers on Tuesday lost their lives in a crash on Shina Peters Road, Iju-Ishaga, in the Ifako-Ijaiye Local Government Area of Lagos State.

PUNCH Metro gathered that the tricycle rider was commuting five passengers from the Giwa area of Iju-Ishaga to Abule-Egba, when tragedy struck around 6.30am.

It was learnt that the rider was about to cross the railway line in the area when a speeding train crushed the tricycle.

While the rider and three passengers died on the spot, two other passengers reportedly survived.

One of the survivors was reportedly rushed to hospital for treatment.

A witness, Baseet Hussein, said the second survivor jumped out of the tricycle before the crash occurred, adding that he escaped unscathed.

Hussein said, “The rider was at top speed because he wanted to quickly cross the railway line. We even shouted to alert him that the train was too close for him to go. While the passenger beside him jumped out, it was too late for others, as the train ran over them. One other man escaped as the train dragged them away; he was injured and rushed to the Longe Medical Centre for treatment.”

Another witness, Gbemisola Adetunji, while lamenting the incident, said it could have been averted if a bridge was constructed at the junction.

She blamed the deceased tricycle rider for allegedly refusing to listen when residents raised the alarm on the impending danger.

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“I saw the tricycle under the train. Parts of it were scattered. When I moved closer, I saw four corpses. The remains of two of the passengers were all over the place. The train did not stop after the accident.

“I learnt that the tricycle was coming from Giwa and heading for Abule-Egba. I overheard another tricycle rider lamenting that he warned the deceased rider not to cross, but he never listened,” Adetunji added.

Our correspondent, during a visit to Longe Medical Centre where one of the survivors was taken to, observed that the patient was in a critical condition.

A doctor at the hospital, who identified himself only as Samuel, said the victim bled from the head and right leg when two Good Samaritans brought him to the hospital.

“He was brought in around 7am. He was still conscious when the Good Samaritans brought him here. What we did immediately was to set intravenous fluid to stabilise him.

“After thoroughly cleaning his wounds, we bandaged his leg and placed him on antibiotics and tetanus injections. It may take weeks for him to fully recover,” the doctor said.

The General Manager, Lagos State Emergency Management Agency, Adesina Tiamiyu, in a statement on Tuesday, said the accident was caused by recklessness, adding that four people were confirmed dead.

He said, “On arrival at the scene, it was gathered that a tricycle with five people on board had a collision with a moving train. Further information gathered at the scene showed that the immediate cause of the incident was recklessness on the part of the tricycle rider, who was trying to cross the railway line. Unfortunately, four persons, including three males and one female, lost their lives and one male escaped unhurt.”

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Tiamiyu, who advised motorists and tricycle riders to always exercise patience when crossing tracks, said the remains of the deceased were handed over to officials of the State Environmental Health Monitoring Unit.

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