

# Tanker driver detained as four burnt to death in Ogun crash

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Scene of the crash

## Daud Olatunji, Abeokuta

The driver of a tanker that poured black oil at Atoyo, inbound Ogbere, on the Ijebu Ode-Benin Expressway in Ogun State, is now in police custody.

Four persons were on Sunday burnt to death in a lone accident involving a commercial bus.

The Public Relations Officer, Ogun State Traffic Compliance and Enforcement Corps, Mr Babatunde Akinbiyi, confirmed the crash to journalists in Abeokuta.

According to Akinbiyi, the crash occurred around 11.50am and was caused by brake failure and disobedience on the part of the bus driver.

He said, “A tanker conveying black oil inbound Benin on the Ijebu Ode-Benin Expressway spilled its content on the road due to a leakage and had to stop when the attention of the driver was drawn to it by other drivers moving in the same direction.

“However, when TRACE, the FRSC and the police got to the scene, they had to divert and re-route traffic so that inbound traffic to Benin could join the outbound traffic section because it is not safe for vehicles going inbound to drive on the black oil, which has already covered the length and breadth of the inbound section.

“The driver of the commercial bus ignored the warnings at the diversion point and chose to drive on the black oil.

“In the process, the driver experienced brake failure, lost control and ran into the bush, hitting a tree in the process before the vehicle was engulfed in fire, burning four passengers to death out of the 14 on board.

“The whereabouts of the remaining 10 cannot be ascertained as of the time of filing this report.”

He added that the deceased were burnt beyond recognition and that the number plate of the vehicle could not be ascertained.

Akinbiyi explained that the Ogbere Divisional Police Command had taken over the case, adding that the driver of the tanker was already in police custody.

The TRACE spokesman called on motorists, particularly commercial vehicle drivers, to cooperate and show understanding with traffic managers so as to make the roads safe for all users.

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