

Explosion: Technician, three others

Uthman Salami
and Gift Habib

At least, four persons, including an auto technician named Rotimi Adeleye, lost their lives, and over 16 vehicles were burnt in a tanker explosion on Tuesday night at the Otedola Bridge along the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway.

While some residents and shop owners claimed that emergency responders recovered more than 10 bodies on Wednesday, others confirmed that the only known casualties were the gas tanker driver, his motor boy, an unidentified woman, and Adeleye.

The explosion, which happened at 8:08 p.m. on Tuesday, was triggered by a 30-tonne tanker carrying gas products, owned by a nearby gas station.

Our correspondent, who visited the affected areas in search of the explosion victims on Wednesday,

learnt that a medical facility called De-Twist Dental Clinic was severely impacted, and both the generator house and security post of a nearby church building sustained damage from the blast.

During an interview with PUNCH Metro, the chairman of the Mechanic Association at Advance Mechanic Workshop in the area, Kolawole Ishola, revealed that Adeleye was caught in the explosion while attempting to drive a customer's 016 Highlander to safety.

He said, "Our shops are not located on the main road, but our colleague, Mr. Rotimi Adeleye, lost his life in the accident. He had closed for the day and was leaving when the fire broke out while driving his Corolla out of the workshop."

"When the tanker fell, he stepped out of his vehicle and attempted to move a customer's 016 Highlander to safety when the explosion



•The burnt vehicles

occurred.

"Both his car and the customer's vehicle he was trying to save were completely burnt. He is set to be buried this morning (Wednesday). There are two shops in our area, and the fire destroyed everything, including customers' vehicles under repair, with a total loss of 16 cars."

A middle-aged woman, Tola Kareem, who narrowly escaped the explosion with her four children and an apprentice, told our correspondent that the blast destroyed her two shops inside the mechanic village, along with her Camry.

"I have two shops, which I just restocked yesterday. I sell various kinds of drinks

killed in Lagos mechanic village

as well as clothes. I also have two freezers and three hangers in the shop.

"Both shops were

destroyed in the fire, and I also lost my Camry. My children, employees, and I barely escaped by a miracle,

running outside as soon as we heard the loud explosion," she said.

A security guard at the

Redeemed Christian Church of God, Rafiu Jafar, recounted the harrowing incident to our correspondent.

Lagos motorist, Ogun gov's aides bicker as convoy, vehicle collide

Gbenga Oloniniran

A car owner, Mrs Babaita Abironke, has tackled the Ogun State Government after one of the vehicles in the convoy of the state governor, Dapo Abiodun, accidentally collided with her Mercedes Benz GL450.

PUNCH Metro gathered that the incident happened around 6 pm on February 26, 2025, on the road leading to the Otedola Underbridge from the Alausa Secretariat area where there are traffic lights.

According to the driver of the car, Raymond Abiodun, one of the vehicles that was last in the convoy accidentally bashed his vehicle while he had already been passed by the traffic light.



•The damaged vehicle

The driver in a telephone interview on Wednesday, said, "The vehicle was the last one, I think it was left behind and it was coming with speed and the driver just dashed in from the expressway without considering that other vehicles

were stopping. The traffic light had passed us, and as we were going, I had completely plied that road, and he came out and just bashed my vehicle.

"Not that he wanted to hit me deliberately but he appeared from nowhere."

"It could have hit a commercial bus before me, but that one moved faster and I was the one behind him."

He said after the incident, the officials in the convoy took him and the car to the Alausa Police Station at Ikeja, where his vehicle was impounded.

He added, "So, at the station, I called my boss and explained everything. The vehicle was released on the third day. They didn't detain me, but the vehicle was held. Although they didn't touch

me, I later discovered I had internal bleeding from the accident.

When contacted on Wednesday, one of the security details in the convoy, Saleh Ahmed, said the team was going to the airport in Ikeja to pick up the governor who was arriving.

He said the Mercedes driver jumped into the convoy by overtaking one of the vehicles.

According to Ahmed, who was in the Hilux vehicle involved in the crash, the vehicle was more damaged than the Mercedes Benz and it was a case of accident.

Ahmed said, "When something like that happens, we cannot just judge. That was why I said we should go to the police station. He was asking me at the police station what