

Two killed, three injured as bus, truck collide in Ebonyi

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TWO persons were reported dead in the early hours of Saturday in a two-vehicle accident which left three others injured in front of the Ebonyi State University Permanent Site Campus, along the busy Abakaliki-Enugu highway.

The fatal collision involved a commercial bus conveying passengers from Benue State to Onitsha and a 911 truck loaded with sachet water en route from Enugu to Abakaliki.

According to eyewitnesses, the accident occurred around the Ishieke axis, a location that has become notorious for frequent crashes.

Residents and survivors alleged that officers at the Ishieke police checkpoint had partially blocked the road overnight, creating dangerous driving conditions that contributed to the crash. The bus reportedly rammed into the truck, resulting in multiple fatalities on the spot, while several victims sustained life-threatening injuries.

Eyewitnesses who rushed to the scene described it as horrific, with shattered glass, scattered goods, and trapped passengers crying for help before emergency responders arrived.

"This tragedy could have been avoided if the police had not turned the highway into a death trap," one eyewitness lamented, accusing the officers of negligence in their traffic management practices.

Sector Commander of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) in Ebonyi, Anthony Ogoto, who confirmed the incident, said the crash involved a red Mercedes 911 truck and a white Mitsubishi bus.

Ogoto, who attributed the cause of the fatal crash to dangerous driving, said the 10 persons, including seven men, a woman, a female child and a male child, were involved in the accident.

He said two persons, a man and a woman, were confirmed dead, while three men sustained varying degrees of injuries.

"The bodies of the deceased were deposited at the FETHA morgue after medical confirma-