

Baby, three others die as bus plunges into river



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baby and three others lost their lives yesterday when the bus in which they were travelling plunged into a river at Ofosu, about 35 kilometres from the boundary town between Edo and Ondo states on the Lagos-Ore-Benin Expressway.

The Toyota Siena bus plunged into the river about 4.35p.m. It was learnt that out of the five occupants of the vehicle, only a woman survived with severe injuries. At press time, it was not clear if the occupants were members of a family.

A witness, Jefferson Uwoghiren, said he saw the accident while returning to Benin, the Edo State capital from Lagos. Uwoghiren, a lawyer and also a journalist, said while some persons he spoke with said it was a private car with husband, wife and children; others said it was a commercial bus.

The witness said he saw the body of a baby and those of three other victims of the accident being pulled out of the river by sympathisers who were among the rescue operation before the arrival of men of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC). The FRSC Commander, RS5. 12, Okada Unit, Mr. A. C. Abdullahi, said he received report of the accident. Abdullahi said four persons, among them a baby, died after their vehicle plunged into the river on Ofosu Bridge, about 35 kilometres from Ore.

He said the accident involved a green Toyota Sienna. Also, the Edo State FRSC Sector Commander, Mr. Anthony Oko, confirmed the incident and attributed it to over-speeding. Oko said both the dead and injured had been taken to Ago Itunu Hospital and mortuary at Ofosu in Ondo State.