

Six die in Abia, Cross Rivers auto crashes



Published 9 hours ago on December 5, 2018

By **Emmanuel Ifeanyi and Clement James**



At six people lost their lives in auto accidents which occurred in Aba, Abia State and Calabar in Cross River State. Four passengers died in a Toyota Sienna bus with registration number MH 630 UWN Enugu when the vehicle rammed into a stationary truck.

But in Calabar, a young man and a mother of two were on Tuesday crushed to death at different points. The Abia accident occurred at Umunka community on the Aba- Port Harcourt Highway. When contacted, officials of the Aba Unit of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) said they were yet-to-be briefed about the accident. But an official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the unit had deployed a patrol team on the Aba-Port Harcourt Highway to investigate the accident. Witnesses all the passengers of the Sienna bus died on the spot.

“We were all here and the next thing we heard was a loud bang. By the time we got there, we saw the light green Sienna trapped under the truck which has been stationary for some time now. “From the way it happened, it looks like either the driver lost control of his vehicle or that his mind was not where he was going.

It could also be that he is not familiar with the road. “But like every driver who is not familiar with a road, the person should not be driving recklessly as could be the case of this driver. The incident happened in the afternoon and that makes us wonder why the accident should happen.

“Though a lot of people said that the driver may have noticed that the truck was stationary very late, others suggested that it could be as a result of brake failure. “The question is if the truck owner failed to indicate that the truck broke down with the usual green leave that they drop on the road, how the driver rammed into the truck to have such impact on the car and the passengers if he was not on top of speed?

“The car stuck deep into the stationary truck that we had to call for the assistance of another truck to pull the Sienna out to see if there were people that could be saved. But when it was pulled out, no passenger of the Sienna was alive,” one of the witnesses, who gave his name as Mr. Fred, said. Meanwhile, it was learnt that the Calabar accident occurred about 6p.m. on Monday when a truck rammed into an unidentified middle-age man and killed him on the spot.

But while trying to escape from an angry mob, the truck driver reportedly drove recklessly into Ikot-Ekpo on Abattoir Road and killed another woman. A witness, Nelson Asuquo, said the driver was speeding on Murtala Mohammed Highway near Tinapa Junction axis killed the man.

He said: “The driver of the truck was on top of speed when he suddenly hit a middle-age man who was walking on the road. When he knocked him down, he tried to escape through Ikot Ekpo but unknown to him, the community has no exit route.

“As he was trying to escape through that route which leads to Ikot-Ekpo, Bakoko and Nassarawa communities, he knocked down a mother with her two children, killing the woman on the spot. “The truck has been taken to Ikot- Omin Police Station as the police prevented an angry mob from lynching the driver.

But we are consoled by the fact that the two children are responding to treatment even though their mother is now deceased.”

When contacted, the Cross River State Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), DSP Irene Ugbo, confirmed the incident. She said the truck was now parked at Ikot-Omin Police Station. She said: “It is true that a truck killed two people; the first person was killed along the Highway while the second person a mother was killed around Ikot Ekpo. We have warned the public not to take laws into their hand but trying applying jungle justice at any given time.”