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...CRIME, CITY WATCH, COURTS

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# Over 20 burnt to death in Ore fuel tanker explosion

...no, number of dead are 8 – FRSC

Babatope Okeowo and  
Success Nwogu

**T**here were conflicting figures between eyewitness account and the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) records on the number of people who lost their lives when a petrol tanker exploded at Ore, Odigbo Local Government Area of Ondo State on Sunday evening.

While eye witness accounts say not less than 20 persons were burnt to death following the fire outbreak from the explosion, the FRSC said eight persons were burnt to death following an explosion.

The Sector Commander of the FRSC, in Ondo State, Ezekiel Son-Allah, yesterday said the explosion occurred while people were scooping petrol after a petrol-laden tanker fell and spilled its content along the Ore-Benin Expressway.

The fire incident, eyewitnesses said was said to have been ignited by a spark from a phone held by one of the persons who were scooping fuel that spilled from tanker. Among the dead were three children and a pregnant woman who brought N100,000 to buy fuel.

Giving an eyewitness account, Mr Awalu Saliu said the tanker fell around 430 in the evening and people came to scoop oil from the tanker.

Saliu said, "I heard about it and I drove to this place from the town. Many people were taking fuel. The rain has stopped. I parked my motorcycle and came down. After some time, we heard something like a

boom.

"The fire started coming. There was another boom and we saw fire coming. Over 100 people scooping fuel directly from the tanker ran away I also ran. I saw people carrying fuel and being trailed by the fire. Many people would have died if the fire had started from the tanker; but it started where the water flowed to the residence of a woman who was cooking. The woman died instantly."

Another eyewitness, Tijani Diekola said he met several corpses on the ground after the explosion occurred during the scooping of the oil from the tanker.

Diekola said, "I got here a few minutes after the explosion and met some burnt corpses on the ground, but the situation was so tense and nobody could get near the place. It was this morning that some relatives of the victims were able to get the corpses of the affected people. None of them survive the incident, most of them were burnt beyond reasonable measure."



Scene of the crash

He said he saw more than ten dead bodies when he got to the scene of the accident on Monday morning, saying most of the corpses were burnt beyond recognition.

His words "This morning I met about ten burnt dead bodies while those around the tanker cannot be recognised. They were packed inside a sack by officials of the FRSC.

Another eye witness who gave his

name as Cyriacus said they were inside the church when the tanker fell and spilled its contents on the road.

Cyriacus said some persons rushed to scoop fuel despite being warned by their Clergy

His words "We were inside the church when we heard that tanker fell. The rain was also falling. People were taking fuel when the fire started after a spark from a phone.

## Osun court banishes unemployed man from state over alleged stealing

Ayobami Agboola,  
OSOGBO

**A** Magistrate Court sitting in Osogbo, Osun State, has sentenced a 26-year-old man, Amachi Paul, to 15-days imprisonment for stealing the sum of N920.

Magistrate A. O. Daramola, while delivering her judgement on Friday ordered Paul, who has no visible and traceable residence

or work in Osun, to leave the state immediately after serving his jail term at the Nigeria Correctional Centre, Ilesa.

The court ordered Paul to return to Ogun State where he was living before coming to Osun.

When Paul was initially docked before the court on July 4, 2023 by the state Police Command, he was slammed with one count-charge of theft.

Police prosecutor, Inspector Alimkunda Joseph had informed the

mediately he committed the crime before he was nabbed and dragged to a nearby police station.

He said after investigation was concluded, the defendant was arraigned in court.

The charge read, "That you Amachi Paul on 29th June, 2023, at 11:20 hours at Rano Filling Station, Osogbo in the Osogbo Magisterial District did steal a sum of nine hundred and twenty naira (N920.00k), property of one Adesina Akeem, and thereby committed an offence