

Easter Eve tragedy: Seven killed in auto crashes in Osun, Ondo

Ayobami Agboola and Babatope Okeowo

No fewer than seven persons were killed in two separate auto crashes in Osun and Ondo State on Saturday.

In Osun State five persons, including a female child, died in a ghastly motor accident along Ife-Ilesa road.

The Public Enlightenment Officer of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Osun Command, Agnes Ogungbemi, on behalf of the Osun Sector Commander, Taofeek Sokunbi confirmed the fatal crash on Saturday.

Ogungbemi disclosed that an articulated vehicle crushed a private white colour Toyota Hilux vehicle with registration number: FKJ691HZ and killed five passengers out of the total nine passengers involved in the crash.

She said that the driver of the white colour articulated vehicle with no obvious registration number was nabbed and handed over to the police at Edun Abon division, adding that the crashed vehicles were also taken over by the police.

According to her, the injured female passenger was rushed to Mayowa Hospital, Ipetumodu, while the corpses were taken to the mortuary of the Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospital, Ile-Ife.

Ogungbemi stated that the accident was caused by over speeding and one way traffic violation.

She said the road mishap happened at about 10:15am on Saturday adding that the affected drivers and passengers included six male adults, two female adults, and one female child.

The FRSC official added that a sum of N508, 900 that was discovered in one of the

vehicles had been handed over to relatives of the victims at the scene of the accident.

"The Sector Commander, Corps Commander T. A. Sokunbi warns road users to desist from the offence of route violation and excessive speeding. He added that the driver was in NPF custody and will be charged to court," she said.

"The only surviving woman was the one travelling with her family and her house maid," the statement read.

Meanwhile, a couple and one other person were killed in a ghastly accident involving a commercial tricycle and a truck in the Okearo axis of Akure, the Ondo State capital.

Multiple eyewitnesses said the fatal accident was said to have been caused by reckless driving on the part of the driver of both the commercial tricycle and the truck.

Another source said the deceased included a husband and his wife who were passengers in the tricycle. While two of the victims died on the spot, the third victim reportedly gave up the ghost while being rushed to the hospital.

At the scene of the accident, bloodstains were still visible on the road. The mangled remains of the tricycle, also referred to as Keke Napep, had been cleared from the scene.

It was gathered that the driver of the truck, in a bid to evade an irate mob, fled immediately after the crash but later turned himself in at the B Division Police Station in Oke Aro.

The tragedy sparked outrage among residents, who marched to the police station, hurling stones and demanding justice for the victims.