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THIS DAY

Nigeria: Two Die as Truck Collides With Train in Umuahia

Emmanuel Ugwu

4 April 2009

Umuahia — A collision involving a moving train, a trailer and a mini bus has led to the death of two persons while five others sustained various degrees of injuries in a multiple accident that occurred at Umuahia, Abia State.

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The accident, according to eyewitnesses, occurred on Thursday at a railway crossing along Ubakala road in old Umuahia area of the capital city with the trailer almost passing through before it was hit, causing the driver to lose control and ram the long vehicle into an incoming commercial bus.

THISDAY gathered that the victims were passengers in a commuter bus with registration number Abia XA 906 APR which was smashed by the trailer with registration number Borno XA 538 MBR after it was hit by the moving train..

Confirming the number of casualties a medical doctor on duty at the Federal Medical Centre (FMC) Umuahia, Dr. C'Fine Okorochukwu told our correspondent that two women were brought dead while five other passengers sustained injuries.

He said among the wounded was a pregnant woman, adding that her case was being handled by the obstetrics and gynecology department.

The state Police Public Relations Officer, Ali Okechukwu, who also confirmed the ugly incident, said he was yet to get the details of what happened.

Residents of the area around the railway crossing lamented the absence of a barrier crossing and a flagman to warn motorists of an approaching train, and stop vehicles from crossing while the train was passing.

Chief Nath Orji said a similar incident happened last week when a trailer hit a Mercedes Benz car, adding that the matter was reported to the railway authorities so they could put a barrier crossing and station a flagman but no action was taken.

At the Umuahia-Ibeku Railway Station, there was no official of the Nigeria Railway Corporation (NRC) available to react to the train accident as the officials were said to be having a meeting with the police.

Meanwhile both the trailer and the commuter bus involved in the multiple accident have been towed to the railway station where they are being kept.

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