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THIS DAY

## Nigeria: 60 Burnt to Death in Edo Auto Crash

Adibe Emenyonu

16 May 2009

Benin — No fewer than 60 persons were feared killed in an auto-crash involving an Onitsha bound bus and a stationary diesel tanker at Ekpoma.

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Thisday gathered that five persons that survived the accident were taken to Ekpoma General Hospital and are currently responding to treatment while one was discharged.

An official statement from the Federal Road Safety Corps said the number of deaths could not be ascertained as the bodies were still burning inside the bus at press time.

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Zonal Commander of the FRSC, Mr. Zakari Nda said the accident occurred at the early hours of yesterday morning and the vehicles involved were an Onitsha bound luxury bus and a stationery diesel tanker adding that the vehicles licensed plate numbers were completely burnt.

At the accident scene three FRSC vehicles were sighted including police officers , Red Cross officials and other rescue operation workers.

The scene of the accident near the Irrua Specialist Hospital was cordoned off from motorists and passers-by and a pay-loader truck was seen digging a mass grave where the charred remains of the victim would be buried.

Some of the victims charred remains recovered were seen being loaded into a waiting tipper lorry.

Mr. Nda stated that 41 passengers were found to have boarded the bus according to the bus manifest obtained.

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