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22 Burnt to Death in Ondo Autocrash

From James Sowole in Akure, 04.14.2010

An **auto crash** on **Akure-Owo Road**, **Ondo State**, on Monday claimed the lives of at least **22** people. The incident involving a Toyota Hiace Bus marked KOGI XA 666 KHS and an IZUZU Mini truck marked LAGOS CV 624 KTU occurred at Amurin village near Emure.

A police source said the **crash** occurred around 11.45pm when the truck carrying aluminium rods from Lagos collided with the bus coming from the Owo end of the road.

The bus, it was learnt, was trying to avoid a hole on a part of the road which is under repair. The **impact of the collision** of the two vehicles, said to be on top speed, caused an **explosion which burnt 22 people to death** and left three severely injured.

Bystanders from the nearby village could not hold back their emotion as they watched the piles of human bodies charred beyond recognition.

The injured were taken to the Federal Medical Centre, **Owo**, while the **burnt** were piled near the scene of the incident by a combined team of the Federal Road Safety Corps and the Police from B-Division, Owo.

The evacuation teams were led by the FRSC Unit Commander, Owo, Segun Sanni and a Chief Superintendent of Police Garba Umaru. The **crash** was confirmed by the Police Public relations Officer of the **Ondo State Command** Aremu Adeniran.

He however, claimed the **crash** occurred around 1.30am yesterday.

The FRSC unit commander said the number of casualties could have been less if the incident occurred during the day. He advised Nigerians to avoid night trips.

The Chairman of the **Owo Local Government Area (LGA)** Mr. Adeola Fagbayigbo told THISDAY on telephone that the victims will be given a mass burial.

He said the decision was jointly taken by the local government, the police and the FRSC because the victims were **burnt** beyond recognition and might not be recognised if taken to the mortuary. According to him, they would be buried near the scene of the incident.

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