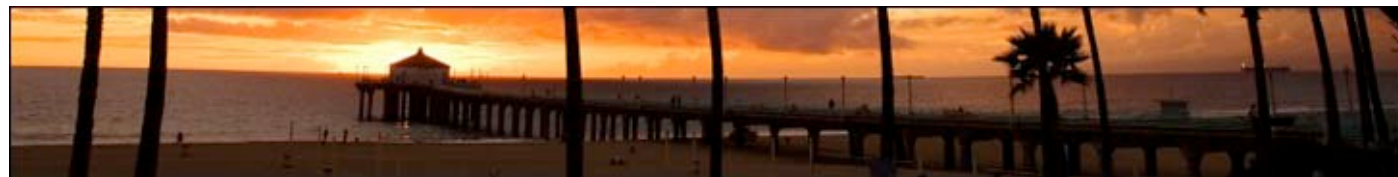


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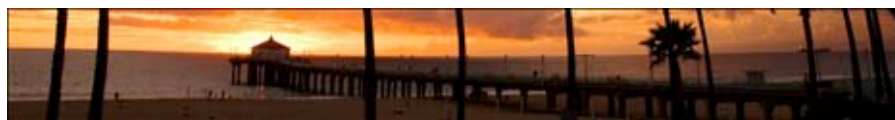
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THIS  DAY

[Nigeria](#): 34 Killed in Ondo Road Accident

James Sowole and Seriki Adinoyi

31 August 2011

Akure and Jos — Thirty-four persons late Monday perished in a road accident that occurred on Kilometre 14, Akure-Owo Road, near Possibility Church at Ogbesse Town in Akure North Local Government Area of Ondo State. Of the number, 16 were burnt beyond recognition.

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This came as more bodies were yesterday recovered in Jos, Plateau State, from the riot that erupted in the city on Monday.

The accident, according to a witness, involved two Abuja-bound Toyota Hiace buses coming from Lagos and two trailers, all on top speed.

The source further said the accident occurred when one of the buses, followed by the other, attempted to overtake a trailer heading towards the Owo end of the road, which made it to switch to another lane; even without a clear vision of the opposite direction.

In the ensuing confusion, the buses had a head-on collision with the on-coming trailer. The impact of the collision sparked fire on the trailer with registration number XN 769 ABC and the first bus that ran into it, making the passengers in both vehicles to be burnt in the

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process.

But the second bus behind the first, with registration number XZ 976 AKD, did not burn. However, all its passengers and driver died on the spot. The Public Relations Officer of the Ondo State Police Command, Mr. Aremu Adeniran, confirmed that 30 people lost their lives in the road crash, adding that the bodies had been removed from the wreckage and deposited at the state Specialist Hospital's mortuary in Akure.

However, the Sector Commander of the Federal Roads Safety Commission (FRSC), Mr. John Meheux, said the report he received from the rescue team drafted to the scene by his agency, indicated that 32 persons lost their lives. Meheux explained that all the 14 persons in the first bus and the two occupants of the trailer which the bus crashed into got burnt beyond recognition.

He said all the 18 passengers and driver in the second Toyota Hiace bus died, while three others sustained serious injuries.

Meanwhile, more bodies are being recovered from the scenes of Monday's riot between Muslim faithful and natives of Anguwa Rukuba in Jos North Local Government Area of Plateau State, even as silent killings have continued in the crannies of the city.

Disclosing this to newsmen, Chief Medical Director of Jos University Teaching Hospital (JUTH), Dr. Ishaya Pam, said that 13 corpses were brought to the JUTH mortuary at the early hours of yesterday. Pam said one of the 18 injured victims transferred to the teaching hospital died on the way, adding that 98 per cent of those on admission were with "high velocity of wounds from gunshots".

A senior Pastor with the Christ Apostolic Church (CAC), Pastor G.C Shawari, and his son were also killed in their home within the church premises on Monday evening. Their bodies were, however, recovered yesterday following the relative calm that has returned to the area.

The hoodlums had gained entry into the premises and murdered the clergy and his children in cold blood with machetes.

The pastor's wife however escaped, even as the church buildings were also vandalised. The security agents however lived up to their promise to crack down on troublemakers, when they overcame a group of hoodlums who had allegedly stormed Murtala Mohammed Way branch of Mainstreet Bank Limited where they killed the security guard before the arrival of

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the police.

This brings to two, the number of bank employees killed in the violence. Diamond Bank had lost a dispatch staff on Monday. The police, however, lamented that in spite of the stern warning they gave to residents and other measures put in place before the Sallah celebration, the hoodlums still went ahead to break the laws.

The police had in a statement signed by its state commissioner, Emmanuel Dipo Ayeni, said the strategy was put in place after meeting with Christians and Muslims as well as other stakeholders in the state. As part of the measures, the police had said some major roads in Jos would be blocked while certain routes had been designated for passage on Sallah day.

The riot however started along one of the roads it allowed - Jankwano, Polo and Rukuba Roads.

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Other measures the police had put in place were to ban reckless driving and reckless riding of motorcycles, as well as overloading of vehicles and removal of motorcycle mufflers to cause offensive noise. Ayeni had also warned that any person found carrying offensive weapons such as guns, cutlasses, knives or daggers would be arrested and prosecuted.

He had said usage of inciting and abusive languages during preaching by religious leaders was also prohibited

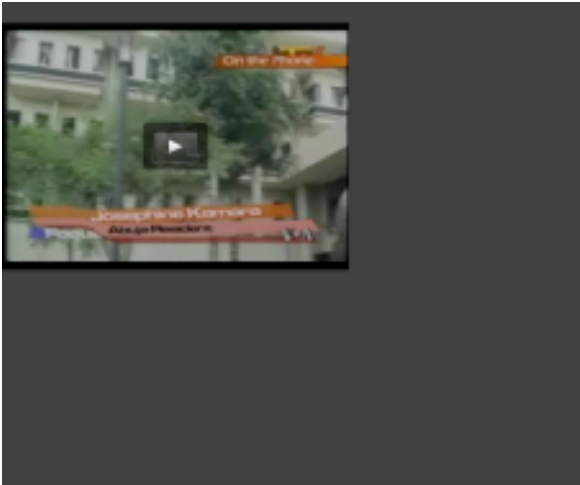
in the festive period.

The national headquarters of the Jama'atul Izalatul Bid'ah Wa Ikamatus Sunnah (JIBWIS), the Islamic sect involved in the mayhem, said it was still compiling the number of casualties. National Chairman of JIBWIS, Sheikh Muhammad Sani Yahya Jingir, who also narrowly escaped death, sympathised with the families of those affected and condemned the attack, adding that the organisation would make public the number of victims affected in the attack.

Jingir, who said about 200 cars were burnt, added: "But I cannot tell how many motorcycles were affected. And at the appropriate time, the organisation will seek for compensation of the destruction of lives and properties that has been going on the Plateau.

"This is the first time in 30 years that we have been prevented from praying on that ground. Some people surrounded us and asked us not to pray on a place that belongs to us. This is an indicator that there is the need for the Federal Government to intervene and do something so that we can know that we have a united country that does not protect everybody's right."

He also said: "It was Allah that protected me, because I cannot tell how many bullets and



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stone went over my head during the attack."

Similarly, the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Plateau State Council has condemned the maltreatment meted out to one of its members, Mallam Bayo Alabira of the People's Daily newspapers, by men of the military Special Task Force (STF).

In a press statement signed by the council's Chairman, Mr. Katdapba Gobum, the union said: "The way and manner the STF men stationed at Zololo junction manhandled the amiable reporter to the extent of inflicting deep cuts all over his body even though no weapon was found on him except his camera and tape recorder was condemnable.

"Despite repeated cry by the reporter that he is a journalist and was hypertensive, men of the STF kept kicking him until he was unconscious and abandoned by the military men. Some good Samaritans within the vicinity later came to his rescue and took him to a place where a call was put across to one of his colleagues, who mobilised others for his treatment at Sauki Hospital.

"The action of the men of the STF was nothing but a display of insensitivity and a show of shame considering the fact that nothing incriminating was found on him. The council therefore demands unreserved apology from the command within seven days, without which appropriate action will be taken against the command."

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