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Three siblings, cyclist die in Ekiti tanker fire

Tuesday, 04 January 2011 21:50 | Author: Punch |

Three brothers of the same parents and a commercial motorcyclist were on Monday killed when a fuel tanker lost control and rammed into a residential building along Ido\Ado-Ekiti Road in Ido-Osi Local Government Area of Ekiti State.

Eyewitnesses told THE PUNCH that the tanker, which was laden with diesel, suffered a brake failure, causing the driver to lose control. The tanker crushed four persons on a motorcycle, which was riding at a slow speed on the road.

It was learnt that the four persons died on the spot and their corpses were also burnt beyond recognition as the fallen tanker exploded and caught fire.

A nurse at the Federal Medical Centre, Ido-Ekiti, Mrs. Bunmi Ojo, told our correspondent that the driver blared the trailer's horn for some minutes before it ran into the siblings and motorcyclist and crashed into the house.

The tanker, which blocked the main gate of the residential building belonging to the Coordinator of Goodluck Sambo Campaign Organisation in Ekiti State, Chief Femi Akinyemi, spilled its contents into the house. The fire also spread to the building.

It was gathered that Akinyemi and his political associates held political meeting inside the building on Sunday. Akinyemi's neighbour also said the politician, who is a former speaker of the Old Ondo State, left the house about an hour before the accident occurred.

Akinyemi's sprawling mansion was completely razed down. The tanker, which burst into flames around 10.10am, was still burning when journalists left the scene at 2.30pm.

Home appliances, vehicles, and cash were among items destroyed in the inferno, which firemen battled in vain to extinguish.

However, a BMW car and a Nisan Jeep parked at the far end of the building were not touched by the fire.

The lone occupant of the building at the time of the incident, Mr. Sunday Afolabi, narrated his experience to journalists.

He said, "I was inside the house when the fire started. I just heard a loud noise and the next thing I saw was that fire was raging after me. I tried to scale the fence but I couldn't.

"I ran to another exit, I could not get out. When I discovered that I would die if I failed to escape, I summoned courage and jumped over the wall. I have some injuries but I thank God that I am alive."

The tanker's driver, Mr. Samuel Ajayi, and his assistant were said to be rescued by officials of the Federal Road Safety Commission and taken to the FMC, where they were treated. However, the corpses of the deceased were deposited at the hospital's mortuary.

Akinyemi prayed to God to console families of the victims.

He said, "What I have lost today cannot be quantified in terms of cash but I thank God that I am still alive.

"If myself and my family members had been inside the house, we would have all perished in the inferno too."

Ekiti State Governor, Dr. Kayode Fayemi, who visited the scene, expressed disappointment that the firemen could not put out the inferno.

A number of sympathers, including a former governor of the state, Mr. Segun Oni; ex-Minister of Aviation, Prof. Babalola Borisade; and other Peoples Democratic Party chieftains in the state, visited the scene to commiserate with Akinyemi.

Source: [Punch](#)