

# Auto crash: 10 killed in Edo

BY SIMON EBEG-  
BULEM

**B**ENIN—TRAGEDY struck, yesterday, when not fewer than 10 persons lost their lives in a ghastly motor accident after Okada town, Ovia North-East Local Government Area of Edo State.

*Vanguard* gathered that the accident, which occurred at about 12.45pm, involved an 18-seater Toyota Hiace bus, which was said to have skidded off the road following a burst tyre.

Eye witness account said the bus lost its tyre while on high speed causing the driver to lose control of the bus, which eventually somersaulted.

According to the eye-witness, "the bus was coming from Lagos, and just after Okada town, it became uncontrollable, skid off the road and fell into a valley. This was followed by a loud noise and by the time we rushed to the scene, we found out that the bus was mangled already."

However, another source confirmed that about 14 persons, including some members of the National Youth Service Corps, NYSC, who were returning for their monthly clearance, lost their lives in the accident. At the time of this report, good spirited Nigerians and sym-

pathizers were still rescuing trapped victims.

Sector Commander of Federal Road Safety

Corps, FRSC, in the state, Mr. Henry Olatunji, confirmed the incident but said that the Com-

mand was awaiting full report on the number of victims from their Toll Gate command.

## CAN, Okogie condemn Boko Haram's threat

*...as religious leaders, stakeholders, move to check group*

BY SAM EYOBOKA,  
OLASUNKANMI  
AKONI, MONSUR  
OLOWOOPEJO &  
OLAYINKA LATONA

**C**HRISTIAN Association of Nigeria, CAN, and Catholic Archbishop of Lagos, His Eminence Anthony Cardinal Okogie, have condemned the ultimatum by the Islamic sect, Boko Haram, to Christians living in the North to leave the area within three days. They described the threat as illegal and unwarranted because the group lacked any legitimacy to make such a demand.

Meanwhile, in an apparent move to address several security challenges in the country, particularly, Lagos State, religious leaders, yesterday, met to work out modalities to stop the spread of bombing and violence perpetrated by Boko Haram Islamic sect from spreading to other parts of the country.

The meeting, held at Governor's Office Complex, Ikeja, was attended by religious leaders, including the Prelate of

Methodist Church of Nigeria, Primate Ola Makinde; National Imam of Ansar-Ul-Deen, Mr. Abdulrahman Ahmad; Rev Josiah Udofia and former Deputy Governor of Lagos State, Mrs. Latifat Okunnu, among others.

Speaking with newsmen after discussing the state security challenges with Governor Babatunde Fashola, Makinde admitted that the increasing spate of bombings, especially in some northern states made the meeting expedient for the religious leaders and the state government.

National President of CAN, Pastor Ayo Oritsejafor, in a separate statement, said his attention had been drawn to several text messages and claims to the effect that Boko Haram had given a three-day ultimatum to Christians in the region to quit and northerners living in the South to return.

He urged Christians in any part of the country to disregard the ultimatum, remain calm and go about their lawful duties without fear of intimidation

from any illegal group and faceless individuals.

Oritsejafor berated the group for making the threat, which he said reminded one of events leading to the Nigerian civil war, saying that the nation had come a long way that it no longer needed anybody beating war drums in any part of the country.

He said: "After the last civil war which resulted in the death of millions of Nigerians, mostly young people, including women and children, on both sides of the divide, we must learn to live together as one indivisible nation created by God. God must have His reasons for creating the nation with all the diversities—which are actually supposed to be a source of strength."

To the Christian community in the country, Oritsejafor said: "You must be vigilant and report any strange movement to the authorities who have been saddled with the responsibility of securing lives and property of every Nigerian in any part of the country."