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Onitsha auto-crash claims 7 lives, 20 injured

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By NWABUEZE OKONKWO, Onitsha

IT was a tragic day in Onitsha, Anambra State, when about seven persons lost their lives, while about 20 others sustained various degrees of injuries after a trailer lost control at the Upper Iweka axis as a result of brake failure.

The brake failure resulted in the 40-foot trailer laden with crates of beer smashing eleven vehicles before somersaulting.

According to eye-witnesses, the incident occurred when the trailer developed brake failure opposite the 302 Military Cantonment gate on descending the Onitsha/Enugu/Asaba Expressway and rammed into the Onitsha North Local Government Motor Park at Upper Iweka axis where it off loaded its content and left many vehicles in a state of beyond recognition.

Among the vehicles smashed were buses, tricycles, motorcycles and a lorry. Confirming the incident, the Acting Commander, Onitsha Unit of the Federal Road Safety Corps, FRSC, Mr. Ezekannagha Obi, said only four persons died.

“My men and the police from Onitsha Central Police Station, CPS, came to the rescue and took the injured to hospital”, Obi said.

Also confirming the incident, the Divisional Police Officer, DPO, at CPS, Onitsha, Mr. Isa Abubakar, said he saw only three people dead.

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