

ransom. A source close to the family, kidnappers. Police Public Relations attended an event in Abuja last Friday. platform of the defunct National Republican Convention, NRC.

7-yr-old boy, 2 others burnt to death in East-West Road crash

By Samuel Oyadongha

YENAGOA—TRAGEDY struck, yesterday, on the Bayelsa end of the East-West Road, as three persons, among them a seven-year-old boy, were burnt to death in a fatal road accident.

Eight others were said to have suffered various degrees of burns with three in critical condition.

The incident, involving a Toyota Hiace passenger bus with number plates PHC 723 MK, Vanguard gathered, occurred at about 10:35a.m., some distance away from Opokuma Junction in Kolokuma-Opokuma Local Government Area of Bayelsa State.

While the deceased were burnt beyond recognition, the injured passengers were rushed to the Okolobiri General Hospital by a combined team of policemen and operatives of the Federal Road Safety Corps, FRSC.

An eyewitness told Vanguard at the scene of the accident that the ill-fated vehicle, which was heading to Lagos from Port Harcourt, might have developed mechanical or electrical fault.

A commercial driver, who simply identified himself as Morris, said he was behind the fast moving bus, when it suddenly veered off the road and went up in flames.

According to him, the casualty figure could have been high, but for the quick intervention of other road users who rushed to the aid of the passengers, saying "we succeeded in getting eight persons out of the burning vehicle, but three others at the back row, including a boy, were trapped."

"There was nothing we could do because of the intensity of the raging fire. We also discovered a camp gas cylinder at the back seat, which must have aided the inferno."



The death bus, yesterday.

Taxi driver's lover of 3 years ac

ENUGU—A taxi driver, Ikechukwu Onyia, 48, was yesterday arraigned before a Enugu High Court judge for allegedly raping another man's wife.

Onyia was earlier brought before an Enugu South Magistrate's Court for the offence.

He was subsequently granted bail and the case transferred to the high court for trial.

Narrating the incident, the accused said on September 20, 2012, his female friend of more than three years, called him to pick her at the motor park with his cab and that he took her to