

Vanguard
News



@vanguardnews



@vanguardnews

NEWS HOTLINES: 08052867023, 08052867058

Black Sunday: 20 killed in Lagos, Ondo auto crashes

•...3 cops at Ebonyi police checkpoint •FRSC expresses concerns over accidents •As Gbajabiamila mourns Ojuelegba under bridge deaths

By Dayo Johnson,
Olasunkanmi Akoni,
Esther Onyegbula &
Fortune Eromosele

It was black weekend in Lagos and Ondo states, as no fewer than 20 persons were killed in an auto crash and when a container laden truck fell on a commercial mini bus, popularly called 'Koro', while gunmen, who drove in two Sienna buses, struck at a checkpoint in Ebonyi State late Saturday, killing three policemen.

In Ondo State, 11 persons were reportedly burnt beyond recognition in an auto crash, which occurred in Ore town, along Benin-Shagamu Expressway in Odigbo Local Government Area of the state, yesterday morning.

Eye witness said the accident involved a trailer and a Marcopollo bus at Soka bridge in Ore town.

According to him, "The trailer was driving against traffic and in the process collided with the Marcopollo bus, coming from the Benin end of the road."

Federal Road Safety Corps, FRSC, Unit Commander in Ore, Mr Sikiru Alonge, confirmed the crash, saying the incident had caused traffic gridlock along the route and all the 11 persons were burnt beyond recognition.

According to him, "The fire has been extinguished, while the traffic is being controlled on the Benin/Lagos lane."

"Efforts are on top gear with other security agencies to remove crashed vehicles from the road."

He urged motorists to always obey all traffic rules to avert further tragedy.

Container-laden truck falls on Koro, kills 9

Tragedy struck Ojuelegba area of Surulere Local Government Area, Lagos, when a container laden truck fell on a commercial mini bus, popularly called Koro, killing seven occupants in the process.

Fortunately, a passenger, adult female was rescued and rushed to a nearby hospital.

According to the witness, the accident, which happened about noon at Ojuelegba, inward Fadeyi, led to traffic gridlock on the axis as emergency responders battled to bring the situation under control.

At the scene of the accident, members of the Lagos State Emergency



Scene of the Ojuelegba, Lagos accident.



Soka bridge, Ore town accident scene.

Management Agency, LASEMA, police, Lagos Fire and Rescue Service, and other rescue responders were on ground to salvage and remove the wreckage from the road.

According to Permanent Secretary, LASEMA, Dr Femi Oke-Osanyitolu, who confirmed the incident, normalcy had been restored in the axis.

Oke-Osanyitolu, said: "Upon arrival at the scene, a truck conveying a 20ft container was found to have landed on top of a commercial bus."

Further investigations revealed that the bus was picking up passengers when the truck lost control and fell over the side of the bridge.

"After suspending the container load with the aid of the agency's forklift and cutting off the top of the bus with light

rescue equipment, a single adult woman was extricated alive and taken to the trauma centre."

"Final casualty count is nine fatalities comprising four adult males, three adult females, a boy child and a girl child, while one adult female was rescued."

"Further investigation to be carried out by the Nigeria Police on the removal of the barriers on the bridge aimed at preventing trucks from ascending."

3 cops killed at Ebonyi Police checkpoint

Meanwhile, the Police Public Relations Officer in Ebonyi State, Chis Anyanwu, confirmed the incident to Channels Television in a telephone interview,

yesterday.

Although he didn't give further details about what transpired, the attack left another officer injured.

The victim, who was shot in the leg, is said to be receiving treatment at an undisclosed medical facility in Abakaliki, the state capital.

Saturday's attack is the latest in the series of deadly attacks on the police and other security agencies in the South East.

FRSC expresses deep concerns over accidents

Meanwhile, the Corps Marshal of FRSC, Dauda Biu, in a statement by the Assistant Corps Marshal and Corps Public Education Officer, Bisi Kazeem, frowned at the incidents and explained the importance of barricading the bridge against articulated vehicles, citing some of the dangers that come with their continuous use of the bridge.

The statement said preliminary investigation conducted into the fatal crashes by the corps, the Ojuelegba crash involved a Mack truck with a 40-foot container with number plate, KJA 380 KD, while the Soka road accident involved a truck driven against traffic and a Marcopollo bus.

He said efforts were in top gear to arrest the driver that caused the Soka bridge crash.

Biu called for efforts to be made towards expanding the connecting roads under the bridge to accommodate all articulated vehicles.

The FRSC boss cautioned commuters against route violation popularly referred to in the local parlance as 'bne way' as well as driving against prescribed legal speed limits on all roads.

Gbajabiamila mourns Ojuelegba under bridge deaths

This came as Speaker of the House of Representatives, Mr. Femi Gbajabiamila, has described as unfortunate and sad, the killing of nine people by a container in the Ojuelegba area of Surulere, Lagos, yesterday.

Gbajabiamila called for immediate action and an investigation into the incident.

He said: "I was sad and shocked at the news of the killing of the nine innocent people by a container. I became more brokenhearted when I saw the gory images of the incident. This is unfortunate and unacceptable."

"This is not the first time such an incident is happening in Lagos. I, therefore, call for immediate temporary installation of barriers as the case on Oba Akran-Computer village, Ikeja to prevent trailers from using the bridge and be compelled to use the under bridge alternatively to avert future occurrences. It is unacceptable for people to die in such a way at the same spot multiple times."

Troops neutralise Boko Haram commander, 31 other terrorists in Borno

By Kingsley Omonobi

SPECIAL Forces of the Nigerian Army, under Operation Hadin Kai in collaboration with the Civilian Joint Task Force, have eliminated 32 terrorists, including a top Boko Haram commander, Abu Illiya, during a raid on terrorist

camp in Konduga Local Government Area of Borno State.

The troops reportedly made contact with the terrorists in the course of the counter offensive patrol in Yuwe, which led to a heavy gun battle.

Sources disclosed that the troops achieved the feat

during an intelligence-led aggressive fighting patrols in some identified Boko Haram hideouts in Kayamari, Habasha and Yuwe villages.

The source said that the troops successfully defeated the Boko Haram terrorist's while others reportedly fled in disarray due to the superior fire power from the soldiers thus abandoning their properties and weapons.

s N10m to avoid attacks — Fishermen

group had to strategise to overcome the situation.

Robinson also said the association had reach out to these criminals, so as to allow fishermen fish in the waters without hindrance.

He said: "The attacks have been very rampant in the past but what we do now is that we are settling the pirates. We settle them, that is it."

"I am saying it quote me. If you do not settle them, they attack your vessel, they will remove the catch your sailors have made and sell in the sea. We give them

money, sometimes we settle them with our catches, sometimes they demand bags of fish."

"Averagely, a bag of fish is about N40,000. Sometimes they might tell you to give them 200 bags or 300 bags. Otherwise, they will kidnap your men, which has happened to us many times. And whenever they kidnap our men like that, we carry money, sometimes as much as between N50 million and N100 million for our members to be released."

"Even some of our Chinese members were killed in the course of the attacks. They were

kidnapped and taken to unknown destination and at the time they were releasing them to us after payment of ransom had been paid. Two of them had died."

Similarly, Alhaja Olamide Afolake, a fish seller and trawler owner at the Epe fish market said some of these pirates were always patrolling the waters for their victims.

Afolake added that the Police and the Navy do not have the kind of weapons these criminal elements brandish on the waters and that fishermen always settle these boys before their fishing boats can operate safely and come back with catches.