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Nigeria: Driver Jailed for Killing Pedestrian

Hussein Yahaya & Abdulkadir Y. Abdullahi

13 January 2011

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An Abuja Magistrate's Court sitting at Karu Tuesday sentenced a 32-year-old driver, Solomon Akperekpe, to two months imprisonment for causing the death of one Hassana, a pedestrian.

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The driver of Area II, Garki, Abuja, was convicted for contravening Section 5 of the Federal Highway Act.

Police Prosecutor, Silas Nanpan, told the court that on January 8, the accused drove a Nissan Sunny car with registration number AY 850 BWR in a reckless manner along Mararaba- Nyanya road in the FCT.

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He said the accused knocked down the victim and she sustained a fracture on the head, which subsequently led to her death

When the one count charge was read to the accused, he pleaded guilty, while the prosecutor urged the court to commence summary trial in pursuance of Section

157(1) of the Criminal Procedure Code (CPC).

Chief Magistrate Ahmed Shuaibu sentenced the accused to two months imprisonment or to pay N30,000 as fine option .

In another case, one Musa Magaji, of Abuja Urban Mass Transit was charged for allegedly causing the death of an unknown pedestrian and contravening Section 5 of the Federal Highway Act.

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Police prosecutor, Silas Nanpan, told the court that the accused drove his Mercedes bus with registration number XD 282 BWR in a dangerous manner and hit a pedestrian on January 8 at Keffi Park, along Mararaba- Nyanya road.

He said the victim died on the spot, while his body was deposited in the mortuary at Asokoro General Hospital, Abuja.

The accused pleaded not guilty to the charge and his counsel, Barrister C.A. Ochiya, requested for his bail, which was opposed by the prosecutor.

The Chief Magistrate ordered the accused to be remanded in prison custody and adjourned the case to February 16 for hearing.

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