

the condition of their victims. Posers are also raised on the fate of innocent drivers who did not cause some of the accidents but were themselves victims of recklessness of other users. Are they under any obligation to stay behind to help such victims when they were the cause of their own woes?

A sales representative, Mr Ikedia Eze, who spoke with Sunday Tribune, said that he would not blame some of the hit-and-run drivers because waiting behind to admit his culpability might spell doom for them. "You can imagine the way some pedestrians stroll across roads, not minding approaching vehicles. Some of them will dash across the road when vehicles are already close to them," Eze stated.

He added that the menace of motorcycle riders makes them victims out of their own making. "If I hit a motorcycle rider who gets into my right of way suddenly and I have a means to escape, I will definitely not wait because he is the cause of his woes. You need to see how other okada riders swarm over a driver of a vehicle whenever any of the fellow riders gets involved in an accident with a car owner. They don't bother to find out before apportioning blame and are always ready to take laws into their own hands," the sales representative stated further.

He however admitted that it would be right to turn oneself over to the police after leaving accident scene.

Findings by Sunday Tribune revealed that police authorities have records of only a few hit-and run cases. For instance, only seven cases were given by the Oyo State Police Command from January to September 2014. The first one which occurred on April 16, 2014 occurred at Idi-Ayunre along Ibadan-Ijebu Ode road and involved a male motorcycle rider.

On May 18, 2014, a male rider and his female passenger lost their lives at Alakia-Adelubi area of Ibadan while a male also died in a hit-and-run accident at Egbeda area of the city on July 7, 2014. On August 11, a man who was buying grilled meat popularly called suya was killed by a hit-and-run motorist who swerved and ran into him near Kara at Ogbomoso. Same was the story on August 12 and 30, 2014, accident along Ogbomoso-Ilorin road and Iresaapa-Agbowo road, Ogbomoso road when two lives were lost to hit-and-run drivers.

The popular Soka area in Ibadan also witnessed a case on August 27, 2014 when a DAF truck killed a male.

In Ondo State, the Police Public Relations officer, Wole Ogodo said that Ondo State Police Command had only two cases of hit-and-run cases which occurred under Fanibi Division in 2014. It was a difficult task getting statistics from other states of the federation while Sunday Tribune's correspondent who went to Force Headquarters in Abuja was told that police commands were in better positions to give such statistics.

A senior official of the Federal Road Safety Corps in Lagos, who pleaded anonymity, confirmed that there had been many hit-and-run incidents in the state but said no records of such are kept. "We are only concerned with the road traffic crashes. Many of the hit-and-run cases are reported to the police," he added.

This was also confirmed by the Oyo State Sector Commander, Mr. Luka Ikpi when he spoke with Sunday Tribune. At the Oyo State sector of the Federal Road Safety Commission, it was learnt that there was no separate record for hit and run accidents, as all are classified under road accidents.

According to Mr. Ikpi, "we work with the police and allow them to carry out investigation. If the person is dead we leave it to the police but if the victim is still alive, we rescue such because life is more important for us to save instead of