

Hit-and-run driver kills FRSC official

Kunle Adeyemi, Ibadan

MEN of the Oyo State Police Command are now investigating the case of a motorist that allegedly hit an official of the Federal Road Safety Commission and ran away.

The incident happened at about 3.30pm on Saturday at Onigbinde area of Ogbomosho, Oyo State, when the driver, identified simply as Ismaila, reportedly drove against the traffic.

Ismaila, driving a Toyota Hiace bus marked Ebonyi XA 380 AKL, was said to be coming from Lagos and heading towards Iluju.

Our correspondent learnt that at Taike/Ikoyi-Ile, Ismaila veered to the left side of the road, speeding dangerously. He was reportedly cautioned by a traffic official, who was standing a few metres away from the bus.

But before the official could jump out of danger, the bus had hit him.

It knocked his head against the tar and the man sustained serious injuries.

The victim was later identified as U.A. Sanni, an official of the FRSC attached to the Ogbomosho Command.

Sanni died at about 30 minutes after the accident at a nearby hospital.

It was learnt that immediately the incident occurred, both the driver and his assistant abandoned their bus and fled.

When the incident was reported at Owode police station, policemen, with the assistance from some people who witnessed the incident, launched a manhunt for the driver and his aide.

The bus assistant was later arrested in a nearby bush

where he had taken refuge.

The bus had been driven to the FRSC office in Ogbomosho.

The Police Public Relations Officer, Oyo State Command, Mr. Fatai Sanni, an assistant superintendent of

police, confirmed the incident to our correspondent on Sunday, but he was silent on the condition of the victim.

Sanni said the police had got all the clues that would assist in arresting the fleeing driver.

Soldiers terrorise motorists

**Adelani Adepegba,
Enugu**

SOME soldiers who were drafted to the gate of the Enugu State University of Science and Technology have been terrorising commercial bus drivers and motorcyclists in the area by extorting money from them.

The soldiers, numbering eight, usually take turn to man the junction and collect "tolls" from motorists.

Our correspondent's gathered that they maintained the checkpoint from morning till late in the evening when they would leave for their barracks on Emene Road.

Drivers always complain about the activities of the soldiers, especially their aggression against bus drivers who refuse to oblige their demands for money.

The soldiers once subjected our correspondent and other passengers in a bus to a thorough search because the driver refused to part with money.

One of the soldiers had shouted at the driver, raised his rifle, and ordered everyone to disembark, saying he suspected that the passengers were not "clean."

After delaying the bus for some minutes, he allowed the driver to go, with a warning of

a dire consequence if he (the driver) failed to cooperate in the future.

Some drivers complain about the high-handedness of the officers, particularly the uncouth and hostile manner they address and treat motorists and commercial motorcyclists.

A driver, Godwin Ibeku, said he was always harassed by the officers anytime he encountered them.

He said, "Some of the soldiers may allow you to go if you joke with them and promise to settle them when you are coming back.

"But about two of them are very wicked. They will insist that you should settle them immediately. They don't want to know if you have made money or not.

"We know that their stay at that junction is strategic because that area is a black spot for armed robbery. But the way they extort money has taken the shine off the service they render."

Attempts to get the reaction of the Army Public Relations Officer, 82 Division, Enugu, Col. Kayode Olukolade, was not successful as he was said to have travelled out of the state.