

Hit-and-run driver kills baby, injures

Eniola Akinkuotu

When on January 14, 2012, Biyi and Bose Bolaji had their first baby, family and friends rejoiced with them. However, just 10 months after their bundle of joy arrived, he met his death after being hit by a reckless driver in Abuja.

PUNCH Metro learnt that Bose and another bystander, Emmanuel Amairo, were hit by the unidentified driver's car.

Biyi told our correspondent that his wife, who was carrying his late son, Adeyemi, was about to get a cab along Airport Road and were standing by the roadside when they were run over by the car.

He said, "That Thursday, my wife and baby were on Airport Road attempting to get a cab to my friend's house. Suddenly, a Toyota Corolla ran into them as well as another man who was standing beside them. The driver also hit a nearby pole before finally stopping.

"Bystanders and sympathisers responded immediately to rescue them. The driver just came down from his car and a few minutes later, fled on foot. He did not

even bother to assist them in getting to the hospital."

Biyi said his wife sustained a fracture of her leg and bruises all over her body and was immediately rushed to Garki Hospital while the baby was taken to National Hospital.

PUNCH Metro learnt that the driver abandoned his vehicle and since then had not made effort to contact the victims.

"The consultant neurosurgeon told me on Friday that my baby was brain dead and was on life support at the Intensive Care Unit. We continued to pray and hoped that his condition would improve. On Monday,

after my wife had been discharged, I took her to dress her wounds when I received a call from the doctor that the baby had died," he said.

Biyi told our correspondent that upon investigation, it was discovered that the vehicle's number plate, AL 585 DGE EDO, was owned by one Alaibe Henry, a Nigerian Immigration officer.

He said he immediately reported the matter to Lugbe Police Division but added that it could not be ascertained if it was the owner of the vehicle that drove the car when the incident occurred.

The second victim, Emmanuel Amairo, told

our correspondent that he could not remember all that happened because it happened so fast.

He said, "Everything happened so fast. I was standing at Voice of Nigeria Junction along Airport Road when a Toyota car just ran into me and another woman (Bose) and her baby. The vehicle hit me in the legs and I hit my forehead on the ground. We were all rushed to the National Hospital but the hospital rejected us.

"The lady (Bose) and I were taken to Garki Hospital. I remained in the hospital for five days before being discharged. Even now I'm still in pain."

Biyi said he was shocked that 12 days after, the driver had not deemed it fit to trace the victims.

"As a driver myself, if I run over even a goat, I stop and ask for the owner to apologise and if necessary, for restitution. I see no reason why they (victims) should have been left lying on the ground without medical aid sought for them", he said.

Biyi said he had reported the matter to the immigration authorities but nothing had been done.

The Public Relations Officer, NIS, Mr. Joachim

Olumba, said he wasn't aware of the incident. He however said if the incident was true, then it was for the police to investigate.

"The victims ought to report to the police who are in charge

of such investigations. It's unlike an officer to act in such manner but if the police come to us for information, we will cooperate fully," he said.

However, the Police Public Relations Officer, FCT

'We'll break daughters'

Kunle Falayi

Relations of Mrs. Adebisi Coker, who lost her only two children to a building collapse at the Jakande Low Cost Housing Estate in Isolo, Lagos last week Wednesday, have said doctors must be present at the time they will break the sad news to her.

Four days after the incident, Coker has not been informed her two daughters, Toyin (30) and Bukky (25), died in the collapse of a wing of her bungalow, which left her with bruises.

The relatives feared she might suffer health challenges if the news was broken to her when she had

yet to recover from the trauma of the collapse.

Coker's cousin, Mr. Muiyiwa Olulode, told our correspondent on the phone on Sunday, that she was responding to treatment, but added that she was asking for her children.

"We have told her they are still in intensive care," Olulode said.

Coker (68), a widow since 1995, is receiving treatment at the Lagoon Hospital, Apapa, Lagos.

The family had said on Friday that the relations of Coker's late husband together with her own, would need to meet on how best to break the news to her without "devastating her."

Olulode also told PUNCH Metro on Sunday that even



had been murdered.
He said, "We are all in mourning now because

information that would facilitate the arrest of the culprit.

mother

Command, Doris England, confirmed the incident to our correspondent on the telephone.

England however said the police had yet to get the identity of the driver.

"The vehicle has been recovered by the police and investigations are ongoing. We will use the registration number to get the identity and address of the driver," she said.

death to widow in doctors' presence'

Although doctors would determine when Coker was fit to receive the

news, it would be broken in the hospital in the presence of the

serious step to pay him and his over 14,000 colleagues their terminal benefits.

He said his personal doctor who ran another round of medical tests on him late last week had been lamenting that his sugar level had significantly dropped.

He said, "I might be physically weak but I'm psychologically strong and I remain focused and undaunted. I would never be tired and I am not even

respected and appreciated the concern of the centre, adding that he had "sent a representation to the office to explain his stance to them."

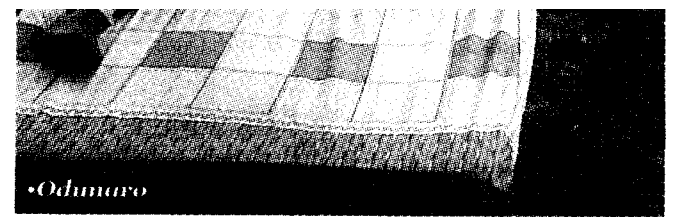
Odunaro, a 1986 Sociology graduate of Ogun State University, (now Olabisi Onabanjo Univeristy), explained that he sent a text message to the Special Adviser to the President on Media and Publicity, Dr. Reuben Abati, on Thursday morning to appeal to President Goodluck Jonathan on behalf of former workers of failed banks.

He said, "Though we weren't close, Dr. Reuben Abati was a former colleague at the Ogun State University where I lectured for two years at the Department of Sociology before joining the banking industry.

"I sourced his number and I thought it wise to send him a text message to pass our message to Mr. President."

The message which he sent to 08034004*** reads, "My name is Olubiye Odunaro. I am a former colleague at the Ogun State University. I have been on hunger strike since last Monday (November 12) to press home our appeal to get the president's attention to the plight of the disengaged staff of failed banks for their terminal benefits for humanity sake.

"Please use your good offices to assist us in this



regard. My plan is not to die but I may not withdraw from the strike. Please help to avert calamity."

Odunaro said when Abati did not respond to the message, he sent another one to his second line on 08054004*** on Friday to which he responded.

Abati's reply which was delivered to Odunaro's phone at 10:29 am on Friday read, "Noted. In fact, somebody (name withheld) discussed your protest with me this morning. Regards."

Odunaro said, "This is an ample opportunity for President Jonathan to prove to the whole world that he truly cares for the soul of every citizen of this country.

"He should pay us our entitlements and give the over 14,000 employees of the 14 failed banks a new lease of life."

Odunaro's cousin, Olusina Taiwo, who was at the garden in company with his wife, said he heard about the hunger strike on two different radio stations and called him on the telephone to confirm if it was true.

He said, "I couldn't believe my ears when I

heard this on radio. I have been appealing to him to reconsider his decision but he has refused.

"Though he is four years older than I am, we grew up together and I have known him as a very disciplined man. I don't see him ending this strike.

"As a Christian, I don't think it is biblical to die of hunger strike. I'm just trying to preach the gospel to him so he can accept Christ because we don't know what can happen in the immediate future."

A former employee of Hallmark Bank, Abbas Salami, who came on a solidarity visit to him said Odunaro must not be allowed to die.

He said, "He went on hunger strike on his own volition and we respect his views on this.

"Government should heed our request and prevent an avoidable disaster."

President, Association of ex-staff of Non-Consolidated Banks, Magnus Maduke, appealed to the Federal Government to direct relevant agencies to discharge their obligations to them as contained in laws guiding the banking industry.



•Togin

•Bukky

•Coker

medical personnel.

He said, "The problem we are facing now is how she would be able to cope after receiving the news and she leaves the hospital.

"When I visited her yesterday, she was angry at the fact that when she reported to the Lagos Building Investment Company that her building was in a bad state, nobody responded. She said they did nothing until the house collapsed and she lost all her belongings."

Following the collapse of Coker's building, about 60 other buildings in the estate have been marked for demolition by the Lagos State Building Control Agency.