

# LIFELINE

## TRAILER CRUSHES MAN TO DEATH IN LAGOS

BY JOB OSAZUWA

**T**ragedy struck on Monday morning in Lagos when a moving trailer crushed a young man to death. The tragic event occurred at about 8.30am at the popular Boundary Bus Stop, Ajegunle in Ajeromi Ifelodun Local Government Area of the state.

According to eyewitnesses, the victim was in his 30s. The trailer which was not speeding, according to reports, was said to have hit the yet to be identified man from behind, and later dragged him in-between the vehicle's tyres and killing him instantly. As at the time our correspondent visited the accident scene, the corpse had already been deposited at the mortuary but a pool of his blood was still fresh on the spot where the vehicle crushed him.

Up till midday, traders and residents around the Boundary roundabout still wore gloomy faces from the shock of how the young man, who was full of life shortly before the accident could be despatched to an early grave within 20 minutes.

Daily Sun gathered that the young man was neatly dressed in a light blue local attire but the neat dress was later darkened by his blood. The deceased was suspected to be rushing to work at that hour of the day, not knowing that death was lurking around.

The driver of the trailer with the plate number FST302XP was immediately arrested by the police officers from Ajeromi Police Station, which is a stone's throw from the accident scene. The trailer was also taken to the station and its tyres were quickly deflated.

An eyewitness, Mr. Ezeudui Obum Herbert said he was dazed at the manner at which the accident happened, especially how the victim died before anyone could say Jack Robinson.

In his words: "I was here in front of my shop this morning with my fellow traders when I suddenly saw a young man of about 30 years knock down by a trailer. He wore a light blue native guinea attire, rushing to work just like every other person. The vehicle was coming behind the man but he did not know and that was why he could not escape.

"It was not that the vehicle's break failed. Another factor that also contributed to the man's death is that the place was so jammed that both passers-by and vehicles were competing for the narrow road. The driver of the vehicle might have thought that the victim would make way for him but he was wrong. It was so terrible and everything happened within seconds."

Another eyewitness, Emeka Obegoro said he saw the young man walk briskly pass in front of his shop and the next minute, he was being squeezed helplessly in-between the killer trailer's tyres.

Said he: "I was outside at my shop discussing the outcome of the Saturday Governorship and House of Assembly's elections when the man passed us. Another woman was also walking alongside the man, and both of them were close to the trailer. As we were busy arguing why Akinwunmi Ambode won and why Jimi Agbaje lost, I saw the trailer's tyre hit the man from the back and he fell. While he was trying to get

up, he found himself trapped in-between two tyres. The trailer turned him and his head was the target, and the next thing I saw was blood everywhere.

"Sadly also, there was no protective frame around the vehicle. It looked like the body or carrier of the trailer was under construction. If the trailer was well shielded, the tyre wouldn't have rammed directly into the innocent man so easily like that. I pity his family members because they would be expecting him back home in the evening after his day's job.

"I won't blame the driver much because the young man was walking on the road and everywhere was so congested, coupled with the Monday morning rush in Lagos. The vehicle was moving slowly because there was a traffic jam. You know this place is a

roundabout, so you don't expect any vehicle to be on speed."

The soldiers and policemen that were stationed at the roundabout were said to quickly rush to the scene to disperse the crowd of sympathizers that immediately gathered to catch a glimpse of the deceased.

At Ajeromi Police Station, a policeman who preferred to remain anonymous told Daily Sun that the police were making frantic efforts to contact relatives of the deceased. Another officer also from the station said he suspected that the yet to be identified corpse was a Muslim before his tragic demise. He assured that the police would hasten the search for his family members so that they might bury the body according to Islamic rites.

Mr. Ifeanyi Isichei who resides on a street

off Boundary Road expressed worry over frequent cases of accidents and other related occurrences leading to deaths in Ajegunle area. He said if it was not accident today, it would be a cult clash tomorrow.

"I was still at home when I saw people running to the accident scene that a trailer had killed somebody. As I got there, I saw the lifeless body of the young man and people, especially women, were crying. There is no week that passes by without Ajegunle recording a death, either from vehicle accidents or fights between members of rival cults.

"This one that happened this morning really shocked the community. The young man was rushing to work but he never got there. May his soul rest in peace," Isichei said.



• The trailer that killed the man parked at Ajeromi Police Station.