

The hit-and-run driver, who is yet to be identified was said to have knocked him down along Ibe Road, at Okota area of the state as he was jogging early on that fateful Saturday morning.

The eyewitness, one of the deceased's fellow joggers, who spoke on condition of anonymity, had told THISDAY at the deceased's residence that the hit-and-run driver was in a Toyota Corolla and the driver was a male.

According to the eyewitness, the driver who was on a high speed that early morning had crushed Igwe while trying to avoid a pothole along that stretch of road that leads to Apata field.

He said: "The deceased was jogging with us at about 6.30am when that Toyota Corolla sped out from a bend on high speed and in an attempt to avoid a pothole, swerved to his left.

"Some of us jogging with him jumped but he couldn't make it because of the sudden movement of the vehicle. The vehicle hit him to the boulder in the middle of the road.

"The car's side mirror fell off from the impact of the crash as well as its wheel cover. We ran to help but we saw only minor bruises of his leg. We didn't know he had serious internal injury until we touched his legs and he screamed.

"It was then we saw he was bleeding profusely down below the waist. He was rushed to St Raphael hospital but we were referred to Isolo General Hospital who in turn referred us to LUTH. He was still lucid then and we were shocked to hear he later died."

With his death came many conspiracy theories. While some ruled his death as an accident, others suggested it might have been planned. However, while speaking to THISDAY, the deceased's elder brother, Mr. Hanson Igwe, had ruled out a case of assassination.

The state Commissioner of Police, Kayode Aderanti had after fishing out the killers of Newswatch editor, Obadina, pledged to track the perpetrator but months later, nothing has been heard about the case again as the trail has seemingly gone cold.

Within that same period, there was another case that reportedly claimed the lives of two officials of the Lagos State Waste Management Authority (LAWMA), who were working on the road.

It was in a bid to unravel the identity of one of such victims in its hospital that the management of St Nicholas Hospital in Lagos recently took to its twitter handle to display the picture of the victim, calling on anyone who could help identify him since he was still in a coma situation.

However, two days later, the hospital again took to its twitter page to announce that the guy briefly regained consciousness and identified himself as Owolabi but they were yet to get his address.

The cases of hit-and-run drivers continue to pose a huge threat to lives in Lagos State. In most cases, the victims are roadside hawkers trying to eke a living.

The President, Cyclists Federation of Nigeria, Alhaji Mohammed Sherif, recently corroborated this when he at the cycling/walking exercise organised by the FRSC to mark the United Nations Global Road Safety Week, said pedestrians account for a quarter of weekly global road crash fatalities of 5,000 deaths.

In most cases of hit-and-run, the scenarios are often similar. A pedestrian is hit by the driver, who speeds off without caring about the person he had knocked down.

Sometimes, the victims might be walking by the side of the road, and at other times, they might be attempting to cross the road disregarding the pedestrian bridges.

Recently at Fadeyi along the Ikorodu Expressway, a crowd gathered over the corpse of a man who was hit by a speeding vehicle.

According to eyewitness reports, the deceased had attempted to cross the ever-busy road instead of using the overhead pedestrian bridge. There are yet other cases where they people are killed by the reckless driving of official vehicle convoys.

Other times, these accidents occur because security agencies are in pursuit of a traffic offender. The culprit while attempting to get away often hit innocent bystanders.

That was the case of 36-year-old bus conductor Ikechukwu Abasirim, who was died on Monday, October 27, 2014, at Second Rainbow Bus stop along the Apapa-Oshodi Expressway.

The father of four died after he was hit by an oncoming vehicle after he fell out from his bus while his driver was trying to evade arrest.

The commercial bus driver was actually fleeing from officials of the Lagos State Traffic Management Agency (LASTMA) at Second Rainbow bus stop when Abasirim his driver fell off and was crushed to death by an oncoming vehicle.

Undoubtedly, even though the records might not be updated with all cases of hit and run, scores of persons have lost their lives to hit and run drivers.

In some cases, the fault solely lies with the drivers who in a rush to get to their destinations violate the state's speed limits and they continually escape being arrested. Cases abound where the police threaten to track and clamp down on the culprits but it rarely does happen.