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Drunk drivers should be imprisoned on the first offence

A research done by the US Census Bureau, 12/14 and NHTSA (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration) states that the Alcohol-impaired driving fatalities accounted for 31% of the total vehicle traffic fatalities in 2013, Statistics, (2013). It is a serious offence. It not only threatens the life of the drunk driver but also of the other drivers around. Drunk drivers should be dealt so strictly that the chances that someone might do a drunk drive gets second to none. They should rather be imprisoned for the first offence. Life is not about chances, especially when other lives are at stake. Thus, it is better to keep all such people off the road.

Drinking seriously affects our ability to pay attention and impairs vision. It diminishes our reflexes and thus makes driving difficult. Drinking makes one unaware of the lanes. This is when trouble begins. The other drivers are at serious risk as the drunk driver is unable to locate his current track of speed and location within the lane. The high speed is an additional factor that engulphs not just one casualty but several. In 2006, 13,470 fatalities occurred in crashes involving at least one driver or motorcycle operator who had a .08 or above Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) compared with 13,582 in 2005, Statistics (2006).

The drivers are so used to drinking that they prefer getting a ticket. They know they need to drink, and driving is a daily norm. Thus in short getting a ticket is no big deal. They know that it is an offence. They do it so boldly. Some drivers are so sure of the fact that they can drive

while drunk as they have done it previously. They know they can because they have done it before safely. However, this is no excuse. Getting a ticket to such people thus seems useless, and it shall not help reduce injuries and fatalities at all. Such offenders should be imprisoned the very first time so that they take this offence seriously then next time they think about doing it.

Most drivers know they have chances, second chances or even more. Some consider drinking within the limits is alright before driving. Things are a little different. No drunk person can judge up to what limit he is drunk. It feels ok to him, but he is a hazard to the rest. Besides getting caught, is no big deal. He knows that he shall not be sentenced to prison if found guilty. There are lots of viral videos online that state ways to clear the breath test for the presence of alcohol vapors. People are trying to find ways to do this rather than to understand how severe the consequences can become. The U.S. Transportation Secretary Mary E. Peters launched a national drunk driving enforcement crackdown and asked judicial branch for help to keep drunk driving offenders off the roads, Enforcement Campaign (2006). Thus, it is for the best of everyone if all such offenders are imprisoned the first time so that a second time does not come, and no more lives are lost.

Works Cited

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