

Journalist dies rescuing daughter from burning house

A reporter with Channels Television died Wednesday while trying to rescue his daughter from his burning apartment at Dutse-Alhaji community in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

The journalist, Emmanuel Udoka was said to have rushed into the fire when he did not see his daughter standing among the people gathered outside the apartment and he suffocated to death as a result of the smoke.

A sympathizer that was seen in front of the building Thursday told our reporter that the fire was caused by a generator set.

He said the journalist was not aware that his daughter and wife were already out of the apartment and did not hear his wife's calling that they are safe.

By Abubakar Yakubu

"The man just looked around and ran into the fire shouting his child's name and he never came out of the place," the sympathizer said.

The death of the journalist was formally announced to other journalists on Friday by Malachy Uzendu, the chairman of the Abuja Council of the Nigeria Union of Journalists.

Abuja journalists spent one minute in silence for their departed colleague and prayed for the repose of his soul.

At the Dutse-Alhaji police station, a policeman confirmed the incident and ruled out foul play. "The man died because that is how it has been destined by God that he would leave this world," the policeman said.

Meanwhile, Speaker, House

of Representatives, Dimeji Bankole, yesterday condoled with Channels Television on the death of the reporter who was the National Assembly Correspondent for the medium.

In the condolence letter signed by the Chief Press Secretary to the Speaker, Mr Idowu Bakare, the speaker described the late Udoka "as a highly experienced and dedicated professional who discharged his duties creditably in the coverage of the House of Representatives."

He commiserated with the family of the late journalist and said the death was a tragic loss not only to his family but also to the nation.

He prayed for the peaceful repose of the soul of the late journalist and also prayed God to grant the family and colleagues the fortitude to bear the loss.