

# THE WORLD NEWS II

## Fire razes building, kills couple, 3 children at Suleja

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The burnt room, where the victims were found dead.

A late night inferno alleged to have been caused by high voltage electric supply, Thursday, killed five members of a family around Chechenia area in Suleja, Niger State while three other members of the family survived with various degrees of injury.

Head of the family, Malam Usman Maiwada, his first wife, Saratu Ibrahim and three children - A'isha, 6, Fatima, 3, and Muhammad four months' old, were found dead inside their living room by rescuers, sources close to the family said.

However, the second wife of the family head, his daughter and a brother, who succeeded into getting to the living room of the compound, were rescued alive. City News gathered that the deceased were buried on Friday, while those with injuries were receiving treatment at the Suleja General Hospital.

Relatives, neighbours and community leaders were trooping to view what remained of the house and sympathise with the bereaved and the injured when our reporter visited during the weekend.

The house, which has two apartments - one occupied by the bereaved family as tenants, and the other one by the house owner - was completely burnt by the fire, including the belongings of the occupants, sources said.

Speaking on the incident, owner of the house, Ibrahim Isa, who said he had lived with the family for over two years, explained that the fire which started from the apartment occupied by the deceased, only came to his notice after he heard shouts of rescuers around 10:45 p.m., and he alerted his family members immediately and they escaped from their apartment unhurt.

He said he joined the rescuers, who had already broken the doors to the house and rescued those still alive.

"When I heard that the surviving ones were three persons, I told the gathering that the number of people living in the apartment was more than that, so we tried and entered into their living room after extinguishing the fire, where we met them dead," he explained.

Police in the area confirmed the incident but declined further comments.