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# 5 family members burnt to death at Yangoji

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah | Publish Date: Jan 4 2016 7:59PM | Updated Date: Jan 5 2016 5:20AM

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A man, his wife and three of their children, were burnt to death yesterday at Unguwar Sugeni in Yangoji village, Kwali Area council of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

A survivor, who identified himself as Stanley Emeka, said the incident happened around 12:30 am when he and two of his brothers were asleep.

He said the three of them survived the fire tragedy because they had slept in a different apartment.

He explained that when electricity was restored, he woke up and then he heard members of his family screaming from the next block.

He said he rushed to his father's apartment where he saw thick smoke billowing out from the apartment which was already gutted by fire.

Emeka lamented that his father, mother and three siblings were trapped before he and his brothers went to the back window to pull down the burglary proof.

"It was an electric cable that sparked shortly after electricity was restored around 12:30am. Unfortunately, before we could rescue them, smoke had already taken over the apartment trapping them inside," he said.

A neighbour, who simply identified herself as Mama Jummai, told our reporter at the scene of the fire that she woke up after electricity was

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restored in order to put on her refrigerator when she heard people screaming.

She said it was when she ran outside that she discovered fire had gutted her neighbour's house. She said other neighbours were unable to rescue the victims due to the intensity of the fire that engulfed the apartment.

"Even other neighbours also came with buckets of water in order to put out the fire, but there was no way to save them as the fire had already covered the entire building," she said.

Our reporter, who visited the scene at about 8:am yesterday, saw some neighbours gathered in front of the burnt apartment discussing the incident. It was learnt that men of the fire service from Kwali later came to the scene, at about 2:12 am.

When contacted, Yangoji unit commander of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Joseph Ezech, confirmed the incident, saying the burnt corpses of the five family members have been deposited at Kwali General Hospital's morgue.

Kwali Divisional Police (DPO), Yakubu Mohammed, also confirmed the incident, saying the police have commenced investigation in order to ascertain the cause of the fire.



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