

to the FRC office in Abuja yesterday

2 sisters die in Makurdi fire

From Hope Abah, Makurdi

Two sisters died yesterday in an early morning fire which engulfed their house at a North bank suburb near Agro Millers in Makurdi, Benue State.

Witnesses said the fire started at 4:00am while the girls whose ages were put at between 10 and seven were fast asleep with the door of their apartment locked from the outside.

A male neighbour of the deceased said the fire might have started from a candle lighted by the older sister of the victims before she left the house the previous night.

The neighbour said the older sibling, a 16-year-old, was in

the habit of leaving the girls all alone at night and returning early hours of the morning.

Others said they were awoken from sleep by the loud screams in the neighbourhood but before help could reach the children, they had been burnt beyond recognition.

"We noticed that the fire engulfed the mattress where the two other girls slept. It appeared that one of them suffocated and died instantly while the other tried to open the door but couldn't as the door was locked from outside," a witness said.

The older sister was said to have returned around 6am to find the charred remains of her siblings.