

GUARDIAN

Blast kills one, destroys property in Benin City

AN early morning explosion at a house in the Government Reserved Area of Benin City, Edo State yesterday resulted in the death of one person.

Property worth millions of naira were also destroyed. The blast destroyed about six houses within a 200-metre radius.

According to the landlord and a cousin of the deceased, Mr. Richard Ehemigbe, he was upstairs having a shower when he

*From Hendrix Oliomogbe,
Benin City*

was jolted by the blast.

When he ran downstairs to check out what was amiss, what he found almost made his heart skip a beat. The lifeless body of Godwin Aigbokhai, which was blown to pieces, was lying at a corner of the sprawling compound.

So were windscreens of cars parked at the premises, window glasses and a part

of the house, which was pulled down.

Ehemigbe said that Aigbokhai, who dealt in second-hand cars popularly called *Tokunbo*, had brought in six automobiles from Warri, Delta State on Monday night.

He had wanted to start the engine of one of the cars but could not. Assuming that it was a battery problem, he instructed his younger brother who lived with him to bring another

battery from one of the cars, which the latter did promptly. It was in the process of trying to fix the battery properly that the explosion occurred.

Windscreens, windows, mugs, Chinaware and drinking glasses of neighbours were also shattered.

A neighbour, Mrs. Queen Uhulu, said she was in the bathroom when she heard the explosion and immediately ran out to check if her little kids were alright.