

# Death toll in Rivers' kerosene explosion rises to five

ONE of the two surviving victims of Sunday's kerosene explosion in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Mr. Kpugi Fadeh, has died while his son is still battling for survival in

a private hospital.

A relation of the deceased, Patrick Naalo, said Fadeh died yesterday morning after five hospitals, includ-

*From Kelvin Ebiri,  
Port Harcourt*

ing the state-owned Braithwaite Memorial Hospital (BMH) and the University

of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH), failed to admit both the father and son.

Also, the Joint Task Force

(JTF), codenamed: "Operation Restore Hope", yesterday arrested a woman and three men believed to

*Continued on Page 2*

**Palestinian**

# More die in kerosene explosion

*Continued from Page 1*

be behind the sale of adulterated kerosene which had been causing explosions in homes and environs of Warri, Delta State.

About 300 jerry cans of a substance suspected to be kerosene mixed with condensate were impounded in Sapele by the JTF.

Fadeh's pregnant wife and three other children had died at the staff quarters of the Nigerian Railway Corporation when one of them tried to light a kerosene lantern following an outage and it exploded. Fadeh suffered severe burns which later claimed his life. His wife and the three children were buried yesterday.

Naalo told *The Guardian* yesterday that doctors at the BMH, where the deceased and his son were first taken to by concerned persons, refused to administer any form of treatment on the victims for over five hours. Later, a doctor gave them a letter referring them to the UPTH.

The disconsolate relation said that the deceased and his son were then taken to UPTH for treatment where they also received cold

réception. Afterwards, they were taken to two other hospitals that also refused to admit them.

Naalo disclosed that the sole survivor is at present being treated in a private hospital in the Rumuomasi area of Port Harcourt. He appealed to the state government and the public to assist the badly burnt boy whose medical bill has risen to about N500,000.

He said: "Government should clampdown on persons who adulterate petroleum products and sell to unsuspecting members of the society. We are also appealing to the government and well-meaning persons to assist us. The sum of N500,000 is required for the treatment; meanwhile all the man's property has been razed by fire."

Just barely two weeks ago, kerosene had exploded in Okochiri in Okrika Local Council of Rivers State and Borokiri area of Port Harcourt killing two persons and injuring several others.

But the spokesperson of UPTH, Goodfellow Opusunju, denied that the deceased and his son were refused medical treatment. He explained that by the time they were brought to the hospital, there

were no bed space left at the Accident and Emergency Unit.

One of the deceased brothers, Mr. Godday Fadeh, expressed sadness that a government hospital would refuse to administer treatment on citizens who were in critical conditions.

He said: "When I entered the hospital I discovered that the man was lying on bare floor. Imagine, what happened around 2.00 a.m., till about 6.00 a.m., the man was not attended to. He was shouting and begging for people to save his life but nobody showed any concern. Nobody attended to him and his son."

## Israeli, Palestinian

*Continued from Page 1*

ther did Mr. Olmert".

"There is an agreement on a series of meetings to discuss the issues, including the establishment of a Palestinian state," he said.

David Baker, an official in Olmert's office, said: "Both sides decided to expand the contents of their discussions in order to advance the understandings to allow further