

Kids watch as bandits kill parents in Edo

PERSONS suspected to be assassins yesterday struck at the Bendel Development Planning Authority (BDPA) Estate, House No. 4, Otaikhogie Street, off Adolor College Road, Benin City, killing a couple identified as Mr. and Mrs. Izevbigie Osawaru.

The victims were employees of the University of Benin Teaching Hospital

(UBTH). Aisosa, the late Osawaru's wife was a pharmacist while the husband was an accountant in the Internal Audit Department of the hospital and branch Secretary of the Non-Academic Staff Union (NASU).

The incident occurred at 3a.m. in the presence of their children, a source said.

It was learnt that the bandits first killed Mrs.

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Osarawu in her sleep, before taking up her husband. They did not remove anything from the house.

UBTH Public Relations Officer, Mrs. Kehinde Ibitoye, who confirmed the incident, said that the couple came to work last weekend. Ibitoye, who

could not hold back her tears, described the couple as hardworking and well-respected employees.

The Osawarus, who were said to have been married in 2000, have four children with the eldest in primary one.

The state Police Commissioner, Mr. Chris Dega, also confirmed the murder of the Osawarus but added that he was yet to get details on it. The

Divisional Police Officer (DPO) in the Ugbowo, who is in charge of the matter, promised to speak on the matter today.

A neighbour said: "We heard gunshot twice at about 3a.m. We heard them screaming and shouting. They were shouting and calling a doctor in the next compound for rescue. And when the doctor came, they had gone.

"The doctor came to knock on my gate and when we got to their flat, we saw them lying on the floor. When the doctor was taking them to UBTH, he met some men of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) on the way and they went together."

Meanwhile, the victims' children have been relocated to a family member's house somewhere in the city.