

## Three family members die in Gombe inferno

*From Auwal Ahmad,  
Gombe*

**A** MYSTERIOUS fire on Tuesday night in Gombe, Gombe State, claimed the lives of Mr. Femi Balogun, 42; his wife Adenike, 33 and their five-year-old son, Martins, in the family home at the Federal Low-cost Housing Estate.

According to neighbours who tried to rescue the victims but were thwarted by strong burglary installations at the two-bedroom apartment, the fire broke out at about 9.45p.m and raged for over an hour during which the family members woke up but were too confused to make good their escape from the inferno.

The blaze also spread to an adjoining three-bedroom apartment, which it also consumed but thankfully without any further loss of lives.

The cause of the fire still remained unknown.

Mr. Joel James Radakson, first son of the apartment owner, said his attention was drawn to the incident some minutes to 10 p.m. when someone called out his name after a sudden noise and huge smoke filtered out of the victims' flat.

Radakson said before he could alert his mother, the landlady and other occupants of their apartment, it was also swiftly covered in thick cloud of smoke from the Balogun family flat.

**Party protests**