

Dawn fire kills four in Lagos

By Debo Oladimeji

FOUR people were choked to death yesterday during an early morning fire in Lagos State.

The Guardian learnt that the fire erupted at No. 9 Oloje Street, Papa Ajao, Mushin as the tenant, Chris Madu, was getting ready for work.

The smouldering fire was sighted by a neighbour of Madu who lives at the back of the one storey building. The apartment has one entrance.

As the fire started, the family ran into the bathroom where they were choked to death by the smoke.

One of their neighbours, Mrs. Udechuckwu Nkiru, recalled that he heard the wife of the man calling for help and shouting: 'Jesus Christ!' I told her to open the door so that we could come in to rescue them, not knowing that the fire started at the only entrance of the apartment," she regretted.

She added that she alerted other neighbours to support her to break the door of the room. "By the time we were able to gain entrance four of them including Madu's mother-in law, and two of his children were choked to death. Only the wife survived and she was rushed to the hospital," she said. Their bodies were deposited at the Lagos University Teaching Hospital (LUTH), Idi-Araba.

The man, who is an expert in fairly used computer system was said to wake up in the morning of yesterday hale and hearty.

He went outside to wash his Toyota Lite Ace car with registration number Lagos EG844-SMK before he went inside the house padlocked the only entrance to it before the fire erupted.