



PHCN wire electrocutes eight in Ibadan

From **Iyabo Lawal**, Ibadan

ABOUT eight traders, all women were killed as a distribution wire of the Power Holdings Company of Nigeria (PHCN) fell on them at the popular Apata market in Ibadan, Oyo State yesterday.

Among the victims were a pregnant woman said to be the only child of her mother; and a nursing mother whose child strapped to her back at the time of the incident was rescued.

Efforts to get the reaction of the officials of the PHCN either in the unit or in the zone were unsuccessful as the zonal spokesman of the PHCN, Mr. Jide Oyenuga was not available for comment when *The Guardian* called his phone.

Police spokesperson in the state, Olabisi Okuwobi, confirmed the incident but disclosed that only five people died, while two were injured.

The traders, mostly vegetables sellers had arrived for the early morning trading when the wire suddenly fell.

The two women and six others died on the spot while the baby backed by one of the deceased traders survived.

The few who escaped with injuries were quickly rushed to a nearby clinic by sympathizers, comprising mostly drivers and motorcyclists who had brought the traders to the market for their early morning trading.

The Guardian learnt that that was not the first time a live wire of the PHCN would be falling in the community though it would be the first time it would wreak havoc of such magnitude.

According to an eyewitness who identified himself as Wale Olabinjo, the wire had fallen on several occasions due to its weak state, and that on two of those occasions, two people had died.