

# 2 Three die in Edo hotel fire outbreak

From Michael Egbejule, Benin City

**T**HREE people, two males and a female, were confirmed dead in a fire incident that gutted a hotel in Benin City, the Edo State capital, yesterday.

The Guardian learnt that the victims were sleeping in their rooms during the fire outbreak.

A police source said the fire occurred at about 4:00 a.m., on the first floor of the hotel, located on Emoavwodua Street, off Limit Road, Benin.

The victims were said to have been suffocated by a dense smoke which billowed from the source and swirled to their rooms.

The smoke was said to have rendered the lodgers uncon-



Affected hotel and incident scene (inset)

scious.

Spokesperson for Edo State Police Command, SP Chidi Nwabuzor, who confirmed the incident, said some suspects have been arrested.

He gave the names of the victims as Bright Amechi,

Michael Awowea and Cynthia Ogiugo, adding that investigation on the incident was ongoing.

Nwabuzor also stated that a guest in one of the rooms where the fire reportedly started and an official of the

hotel have made statements to the police.

He said: "The Divisional Police Officer (DPO) contacted the Edo State Fire Service, they came, and extinguished the fire.

"Three persons were unconscious as a result of suffocation from the smoke of the fire. They were immediately rushed to Edo State Specialist, Sapele Road, Benin City, and the University of Benin Teaching Hospital (UBTH), where Bright Amaechi and Michael Awowe, were confirmed dead.

"At Edo State Specialist Hospital, Cynthia Ogiugo was confirmed dead. Their remains were conveyed to Stella Obasanjo Hospital mortuary in Benin City."