

Midnight inferno roasts two children to death in Edo

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IT was a mixture of pain and anger in Ekpoma, Esan West Local Government Area of Edo State on Sunday, as two children of same parents were roasted to death in their sleep.

The children, Oyenchi, 4 (female) and Chukwudalo, 2 (male) were reportedly burnt when fire from a native lantern engulfed their room at night.

It was alleged that the mother of the children, Christy Akamezie, locked them up in the room while asleep and left to prostitute.

Crowd of sympathizers, who beseeched the residence on Ilenlua Street, rained curses on the bereaved mother, calling her unprintable names.

As at press time, charred bodies of the children were yet to be evacuated from the one-room apartment, while the police had arrested the mother for alleged negligence.

The father of the children, Mr. Chike Akamezie, a trader based in Uromi, Esan North East Local Government Area, who wept uncontrollably, told *Daily Independent* that though he had been estranged from his wife, he never failed to provide for the upkeep of the children.

Chike who admitted he never paid dowry on his estranged wife, alleged that he was compelled to separate from her because she was sleeping around with other men.

He said he never knew the woman could lock up the children at night to go prostitute, adding he would have collected the children at separation, if his late mother was still alive.

Daily Independent sought comment from the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) in charge of Esan West Division, Chief Superintendent of Police (CSP), Okpako Omuohowo, but he declined and referred the reporter to Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) at the police headquarters in Benin, claiming DPOs have been directed not to speak to the press.