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Gas explosion kills man in Benin

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By **Francis Onoiribholo** - *Bureau Chief, Benin City*

Panic gripped residents of Aruosa Street, parts of Sakponba Road and adjoining streets on Sunday, following a terrifying loud noise that emanated from gas cylinder explosion which occurred at a gas shop located at No: 2 Aruosa Street in Benin City, the Edo state capital, claiming the life of the shop owner.

The deceased who was simply identified as Steve and in his late 40's, had resumed his routine work on the faithful day unknown to him that death was locking around the corner.

Steve, as he was fondly called by his customers, was said to deal in the supply of oxygen and cooking gas to his clients was blown apart in his own shop few hours after he opened for business at the weekend.

The blast which shattered his limbs created panic around the vicinity as bureau de change operators, passers-by and resident scampered to safety.

One of late Steve's neighbours who pleaded anonymity said "this is a very sad day for us because late Steve was a good man. When we heard the loud bang we thought it was a bomb because we have never heard this kind of explosion.

Immediately the explosion happened people started running helter-skelter fearing that it was an attack by the dreaded Islamic group, Boko Haram.

He said it was shortly after the blast that they saw the lifeless body of Steve few metres from his shop reeling in pain and they immediately rushed him to the state owned Central hospital where he later died.

The remains of the deceased have since been deposited at the mortuary.

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