

Three Sex Slaves Burnt As Fire Guts Centre In Anambra

By Our Correspondents

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NNEWI – A house suspected to be a sex enslavement centre was gutted by fire leaving three suspected sex workers dead in Nnewi, Anambra State.

The centre known as Amaka Padded Bar has entertainment section, two bedroom apartment, kitchen, dancing area, open space, a suya spot and relaxation portion.

The place popularly called Obodo Umuanumanu (abode of animals) located along Nnewi –Okigwe Expressway went up in flames in the early hours of Saturday.

Sources said the place which also served as events centre and bar caught fire after the owner and proprietress of the place had closed work for the night and locked up the girls inside the house.

It was gathered that the three sex workers who lost their lives in the inferno were those who failed to attract customers to take them home on that night.

DAILY INDEPENDENT learnt that before the incident the unidentified alleged sex workers had pleaded with their mistress identified simply as Amaka (Surname withheld) to allow them to go and spend the night with other customers in another hotel of which she refused.

Our source said a quarrel ensued between Amaka and the man whom she charged a fee of N5,000 to be deposited before he could take any of the sex workers out for fun that night.

A witness who gave her name as Chinyere, said the man left in anger saying the amount was exorbitant.

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Another source, an Okada operator who gave his name as Nwodo, from Enugu State, said he was a regular visitor to the bar, he told DAILY INDEPENDENT that Amaka usually lock up any sex worker who had no customer to sleep with to prevent them from going out to do business for themselves.

"It is her usual habit to lock up the girls so as to prevent them from going out with men to make money for themselves. She pays them. She does not allow them to go out and get their own money. So she usually locks up those who have no customer to sleep with for a night because if they go out and make their money they will not pay her except the ones she collects the money by herself. It is real business," he said.

It was gathered that prospective customers must deposit a stipulated sum of money ranging from N5,000 upwards, identity card, phone numbers, cell phone, contact address, before taking any of the girls out while the girls themselves were not allowed to disclose their real names, have cell phones or, identity cards.

Sources said the girls were recruited by the woman for sex for cash business while she pays and feeds them. Pregnant ones were being paid N120,000 and those who gave birth to babies were paid N200,000 each. The babies were sold while their mothers are taken care of, according to sources.

When DAILY INDEPENDENT visited the relaxation/enslavement centre it was seen burnt, while empty bottles, clothes, tyres littered the floor.

The Anambra State Police Command, Public Relations Officer, Haruna Mohammed, when contacted said the woman had been arrested, adding that she was making useful information to the police while investigation into the incident was ongoing.

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