

Three-year old girl dies of suffocation

A three-year old girl, Chidinma Onyenedum, died of suffocation, at the weekend when her family house was torched by armed robbers.

The robbers set the house ablaze following their inability to gain entrance into the place.

The incident occurred at Kwankwashi (Mechanic village) on Katsina road, on the outskirts of Kano.

A witness said that the girl's father, Ugonna, a Kano based businessman battled the robbers who retreated but returned to set the five-room bungalow ablaze.

The robbers later escaped through the back door, but before their escape Chidinma had been suffocated.

Ugonna was said to have refused the robbers entry into the building despite their request to be let in.

Kano State Police Command spokesman, Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), Baba Mohammed,

in Kano

From Suleiman Dangana, Kano

said, "the police are aware of the fire. The case is still under investigation and I assure you that we are determined to unravel the mystery behind the incident."

Ugonna's younger brother, Chimezie, said the hoodlums were about seven in number.

Said he "they jumped through the fence and ordered my brother to open the door or face the worst, insisting that they came just for him. Everybody in the house was afraid and pleaded with the robbers but they were in rampage, threatening to let hell come down.

"Before we knew what was happening, they had broken into the other apartment of the house trying to remove some valuables. My brother (Ugonna) being a brave man tried to fight them back; he inflicted injury on one of them with a

knife. It was then they retreated and set the house ablaze, as you can see, my brother lost everything, his property, his goods at the warehouse and our precious jewel, Chidinma."

The mother of the deceased, Chioma, who is nursing a two month old baby wept profusely.

One of the sympathisers called on the the Igbo Community and the Kano State government to assist the victims to start life again.

"I know that no amount of help you render to them may be enough to augment their predicament, but some thing has to be done by the Kano State government and the Igbo Community in Kano to ensure that this people live again," he appealed.

He added that the police should do everything to clamp down on the perpetrators of the crime, he requested the police to beef up security around the area which he described as "danger zone."

Policeman killed in Delta

THE insecurity in Delta State has assumed a worrisome dimension with the recent killing of a police constable, Lucky Ebodeghalu, attached to the Sapele Police Division.

Ebodeghalu was reportedly shot dead by suspected armed robbers on Wednesday. He was on foot patrol of Ogorode area of the city when he was shot.

But there were speculations that he was killed by a commercial motorcyclist following a disagreement over N20 gratification.

Investigations by *The Nation* revealed that the deceased cop and five of his colleagues were on duty when they ran into a robbery operation in the area.

It was gathered that the patrol team, noticed unusual activities at the scene of the crime, but thought the robbers were friends

From Shola O'Neill, Warri

arguing over some trivial issues.

However, it was learnt that the robbers on sighting the police immediately opened fire on them, a move that caught the law officers unaware.

He was abandoned by his colleagues, who made a dash for the nearest bush, as soon as they heard the sound of the armed robbers' guns. By the time they returned, Ebodeghalu was found in a pool of his own blood.

The Divisional Police Officer, David Kromda, a Chief Superintendent of Police, confirmed the report.

But he clarified that the the policeman died at the University of Benin Teaching Hospital (UBTH), where he was rushed to for urgent surgery.



•IG Mike Okiro

He added that on sighting the policeman, the robbers opened fire on him before bolting away, noting that on getting to the scene other policemen found Ebodeghalu in pool of his own blood.

He denied speculations that the policeman was killed at the scene of an illegal road block with one other unidentified policeman, while allegedly harassing Okada riders.