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## Mystery death claims three in Abuja

 By **Victor Oluwasegun** | Published 30/12/2009 | [News](#) | Rating: ★★★★★

### •Three others in intensive care

There was tragedy yesterday in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) as three members of a family were discovered dead in a 20-foot container few metres from a canteen they operated.

The remains of Theresa Atagada (47) and her two daughters, Justina (20) Paulina (15) have been deposited in the mortuary of the General Hospital, Wuse.

Three others members of the family, Joseph (21) Austin (13) and Bridget (11) were also found unconscious in the container and are presently in the intensive care ward of the Asokoro General Hospital.

Bridget is however said to have regained consciousness.

According to a doctor at the Wuse General Hospital, who pleaded for anonymity, the three corpses were brought in at 1.05 pm yesterday by Inspector Kulu Ibrahim and four mobile policemen from the Asokoro Police Division.

He said the cause of the deaths was yet to be ascertained, and that a forensic doctor from the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA) was being awaited to conduct autopsy on the bodies.

However, the Divisional Police Officer for Asokoro, Ahmed Musa, told *The Nation* that Theresa and her six children had been trapped in the container since the evening of December 26th.

According to him, his men swung into action when they were alerted early yesterday morning that the woman and her children were missing.

"We forced open the doors of the container to discover Theresa and her six children inside the container.

"We have not been able to ascertain the cause of death, which is why we took the corpses to the hospital.

"However, one of the survivors is conscious and was able to say something. And she said that in the night of Saturday, they came in to sleep and they had used charcoals to warm up themselves and shut the doors. And for a human being to remain in the container from Saturday, and you know the temperature on Sunday was as high as 48 to 50 degrees."

Another doctor, who pleaded for anonymity however, said murder cannot be ruled out.

"They were bleeding from the ears, eyes, nostrils and mouths and their heads were swollen, so there is the possibility that they were killed," he said.

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**TATA** Rating: ★★★★★

said this on 30 Dec 2009 12:21:31 AM WAT

carbon monoxide poisoning and smoke inhalation ...you dumbheads...

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**FADUMIYE ADEYINKA** Rating: ★★★★★

said this on 30 Dec 2009 12:00:10 PM WAT

This incident is know doubt a big lost to humanity.I commiserate with the family and all concerned Nigerians over this great lost.It a common knowledge that the level of poverty in the land and the untold hardship in Abuja on accomodation must have resulted to what made the victims to take refuge in the container.However,I strongly fault the statement accredited to the police force that somebody must have masterminded their death.The cause of their miserable death might be as a result of insufficient carbondioxide which aid prompt breathing into the heart system.At this Juncture I advise the FCT minister Alhaji Adamu Aliero to make provision for adequate housing scheme to address the pivotal shortage of housing in the Nation capital city.

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**Okoeguale kingsley oseibe** Rating: ★★★★★

said this on 30 Dec 2009 3:28:33 PM WAT

Their deaths can not be anything else other than excessive dosing of carbon monoxide,from the charcoal fire which has a stronger affinity to bind to haemoglobin than oxygen.I want to bet that,certainly no human can live without inhaling oxygen,which itself is life.The enclosure they slept,which i think was not with adequate

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ventilation perhaps hastened their mortalities.I don't think it's a case of murder,so people should disabuse their mind from this.This calamity is a pointer to the problem of accommodation in the FCT.I commiserate with the families of the deceased,may GOD grant them eternal rest,amen!

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