

Pregnant woman, 3 kids, others die in fuel tanker fire

RESIDENTS of Fiditi, in Oyo Town were thrown into mourning on Tuesday when a petroleum tanker laden with fuel, went up in flames, setting about three houses and their occupants ablaze, including a pregnant woman, three of her wards and six others.

According to an eye-witness account, the incident happened at the early hours of Tuesday morning at Ile Baale Seunsun, near Methodist Secondary School, in Fiditi.

Corroborating the eye-witness account, the husband of the late pregnant woman, Mr. Koffi Mohammed, a Ghanaian, recalled that his family was

awoken by cries of neighbours, who had alerted them about a fuel tanker up in flames near their residence, but it was too late for members of his family to run to safety.

Forcing back tears, Mohammed told *The Nation* that: "When I heard the cries of another tenant that a tanker trailer had fallen at the frontage of our house, I quickly carried my last child, Samuel, who is three years old and woke the rest up. I never knew they were not following me. I jumped through the higher wall fence and my wife jumped through the lower fence but suddenly the

tanker exploded and as my wife made effort to jump the small fence she fell backward and was trapped in the fire," adding: "she made effort to come out but could not do so due to her pregnancy. She was taken to the hospital and given drugs and forced into labour, later she died."

The distraught husband also lost his daughter, Maryam, his wife's younger sister, Lakee.

Another resident in the neighbourhood, Alhaja Ayisat Abdukil, lost three of her kids to the inferno.

When *The Nation* visited the scene of the incident on Friday, the carcass of the burnt fuel tanker, including the zinc iron roofing sheets were still conspicuous.