

Tragedy at dawn in Abuja

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Uchenna Ezeiro

Twenty-eight-year old Uchenna Ezeiro went berserk in Abuja, setting his lover's neighbour Ifeoma Okwor, ablaze. It all started over Ezeiro's Indian hemp smoking habit which Okwor had incessantly complained about Okwor died in hospital. Assistant Editor, Gbade Ogunwale tells the gory story.

HELL was literally let loose penultimate week in downtown Karmo, a suburb on the outskirts of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, as a nurse, Ifeoma Okwor, 28, was set ablaze by her neighbour's, lover, Uchenna Ezeiro.

She was rushed to a nearby hospital, from where she was transferred to the National Hospital.

The incident followed a prolonged quarrel over the perennial inconvenience suffered by Okwor on account of Ezeiro's hemp smoking habit.

Okwor is said to be a neighbour of Amaka, so, whose boyfriend was in the habit of smoking Indian hemp whenever he comes around, which The Nation learnt was regular. With her room next to Amaka's, the late Okwor was said to be a direct recipient of the smoke, which usually filtered into her room and leave her queasy. She complained severally, but was ignored and even threatened.

Things reached a climax in the morning of July 27, when Uchenna was said to have lit another wrap of the weed, sending the smoke oozing through to Ifeoma's room, as usual. This time around, Ifeoma decided to take it up with Amaka, wondering how a full grown woman would allow her man to be smoking the harsh weed in her room, to the discomfort of another person. As usual, a verbal exchange ensued between the two women, as they gave each other the bitter side of the tongue.

While this was going on, Uchenna was said to have stormed out of the room. He found a nearby portable generating set nearby, scooped the petrol and went after Okwor. In the meantime, the shouting match was said to have subsided, with Okor heading back to her room, when Uchenna doused her with the petrol, lit a stick of match and set her ablaze.

Instantly, a violent flame engulfed Okwor's delicate figure with her screams attracting neighbours',

who rushed to the spot and scrambled to do all they could to salvage her situation. They eventually rushed her to a nearby hospital, from where she was transferred to the National Hospital.

Doctors at the National Hospital were said to have swung into action immediately, seeing the critical stage in which she was brought in. Neighbours also assisted with vigils and prayers. Okwor was said to have lived her last days in pain and agony, with the doctors putting in their best until she breathed her last.

Uchenna and Amaka were arrested immediately after the attack by the police in Karmo. But the couple was transferred to the Homicide Department at the FCT Command. After interrogation, Amaka was said to have been released on bail, while Uchenna was detained. By the time our correspondent got to the FCT Command on Friday, Uchenna was said to have been moved to the Special Anti Robbery Squad (SARS). The Command's Public Relations Officer, Anjuguri Manza, could not immediately give details of the case. He promised to check the facts from the Commissioner of Police and get back to our correspondent. He had yet to get back us as at press time.





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