

Lovers die after setting selves ablaze in Abia

TWO lovebirds have died in Aba, the commercial nerve centre of Abia State, after setting themselves ablaze.

The incident, our correspondent gathered, occurred at the popular Lagos Street in Aba South Local Government Area of the state.

While the male victim whose name could not be immediately ascertained was a worker at a bakery in Obohia Road, the female victim identified simply as Oluchi owned a boutique a distance away from her residence on Lagos Street.

The duo died shortly after they were admitted in different private hospitals as a result of the severe burns they suffered.

Narrating the incident, a resident of the area told *The Nation* that the male victim who had dated the female boutique owner left her to date another female worker in the bakery and was said to have impregnated her.

The boutique owner, who was said to be unaware of the romance between her lover and the new girl he was dating in their bakery, was said to have been approached by him to request the sum of N200,000, which he said he needed for something urgent.

The boutique owner was said to have gladly given him the money, not knowing that he was going to use it to pay for the bride price of the girl he impregnated in the bakery.

From Sunny Nwankwo,
Umuahia

The resident of the area who spoke with our correspondent said: "When the news of the guy's marriage reached the lady that gave him money, she pretended that she did not know about the traditional marriage.

"After the marriage, the lady invited her boyfriend to her house and he went there, not knowing what the aggrieved lady had in mind.

"Shortly after the guy came, the lady locked her door as she used to do. After a while, she emerged with a bucket containing fuel which she poured on the guy and set him ablaze.

"As the guy was burning, she headed for the door in order to escape, but the guy grabbed her and both of them began to burn.

"It was in the heat of the incident that she raised the alarm that attracted neighbours who broke into the lady's house to quench the fire.

"They were taken to different hospitals but were rejected because of the severe bodily injuries.

"They eventually died a day apart after they were later admitted elsewhere."

A police source at the Aba Area Command Headquarters confirmed the incident, but he said there was no official entry of the incident yet.