

# Ibadan fire: Couple, grandson cried to their death – Neighbours



Residents of Omotara's Compound, Ori Eru, Idikan, in Ibadan North West Local Government Area of Oyo State have revealed how a 60-year-old man, known as 'Baba Yunus', his wife, and their eight-year-old grandson, Samuel, were burnt to death Friday morning in their house.

The residents described the incident as devastating, and sorrowful, saying that the deceased cried till they died.

The residents said they couldn't rescue them because of the burglary on their window which was the only exit point for them when the fire started.

Some of the residents, who spoke in tears with our correspondent, noted that the fire was so fierce that no one could move close to it.

One of the residents, Bose Ayinde, who also lived inside the house that got burnt said, “The fire started at midnight when we had all slept. We suddenly heard a loud voice “e gba wa o! e gba wa o (save us , save us)! We even thought it was thieves that came to our house. We woke ourselves announcing that thieves were around but we subsequently found out that our house had caught fire.

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“When we rushed out, we realised it was a fire, we couldn’t help the victims because the fire was so severe to the extent that no one could even move close to it. We are very sad because the husband, wife and their grandson got burnt to death.”

Also bemoaning the heartrending incident, Alfa Aliu Omotara, who resides in a house directly opposite the burnt house said, “We suddenly heard the victims shouting fire, fire, around 3am. The fire started from their parlor. All our efforts to rescue them proved abortive.

“NEPA used to give us light between 12:30am to 6:30. When the fire started, the victims started shouting for help. The couples slept inside the room but the fire started from their parlour, so, there was no other exit point for them to go out except through the parlour because the exit point in the room had been blocked with loads.

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“If the exit door inside the room was free, though the victims’ belongings would burn, they would have escaped. Their efforts to escape through the window proved abortive because of the burglary on the window, the wife died first, the husband and son came to the window shouting for help, we were downstairs looking at them upstairs, but we couldn’t help them because the fire was so ferocious that no one could even move close to it.

“It’s been over 60 years since the house was built. The owner of the house was a friend to my father. Baba Yunus and his wife were good people. They were easy going. For over 10 year they that they lived in this area, no one ever heard them fighting.

“The incident was a bitter and sorrowful experience for people in this area. People should be careful with fire, particularly electricity.

Also speaking, another resident, Mrs Dupe Ajibade said, the incident was a sad development because those who lost their lives were good persons, particularly the wife. She was so lovely and kind.

“The incident happened around 3am when we heard a loud noise. If not for people in the area that tried their best to curtail the fire, all houses close to the area would have got burnt.

“The house had already being razed before the arrival of fire fighters. The incident was a great loss. We burst into tears when the bodies of the deceased were laid on the ground.

“We heard the husband was cooking with a hot plate but slept off during the process. The husband, a 60-year-old, was a bike rider, while his wife sold provisions.”