

① Man allegedly sets five stepchildren ablaze in Ondo

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~~MEN~~ of the Ondo State police command have arrested a 54-year-old man, Joseph (surname withheld), who allegedly set five of his stepchildren ablaze in Ondo town, headquarters of Ondo West Local Government Area of the state.

The man was arrested for allegedly pouring petrol into the room of his stepchildren and setting them ablaze after having a misunder-

standing with their mother for denying him sex.

It was learnt that the suspect, who lives around Fagun Crescent area of Ondo town, also left his wife and her 18-month-old twins in the room before carrying out the act.

According to a source, the alarm raised by the children attracted neighbours who rushed to the house to save them, but one of them had been badly burnt in the inferno.

The mother was said to

have escaped from the inferno with the twins with minor injury, but four of the stepchildren were rushed to a clinic from where they were referred to the Federal Medical Centre, Owo, for treatment.

A source within the area said the man perpetrated the act because the woman denied him sex, adding that they had been having misunderstanding over the issue for a while.

Confirming the incident,

the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Funmi Odunlami, said the man had been arrested for a case of alleged arson and attempted murder.

She said the suspect is the stepfather of the five children and the biological father of the twins.

Odunlami said investigation had already commenced into the matter, adding that the man would be charged to court after the investigation.