

① Three children whose stepfather set ablaze inside room in Ondo have died —Police

I set them on fire because they joined their mother to beat me —Suspect

Hakeem Gbadamosi
| Akure

SPOKESPERSON for the Ondo State police command, Funmi Odunlami, has said three of the five children whose stepfather set ablaze in a room in Ondo town following a misunderstanding with their mother last week

have died.

Odunlami, who stated this during the parade of the 64-year-old stepfather, Joseph Ojo, at the state police headquarters in Akure, said the remaining two children are on danger list in the hospital.

She said the suspect kept his 18-month-old twins in another room before dousing the room where the five

stepchildren were with petrol and setting it ablaze.

She added that the mother of the children also sustained burns as she attempted to rescue her children.

The police spokesperson said the suspect informed interrogators that he gave his wife N600 to prepare food for the family but she did not and that infuriated

him to carry out the act.

Odunlami said the suspect will soon be charged to court.

Meanwhile, while speaking with newsmen, Ojo said his action was due to a moment of anger after the children joined their mother to beat him during a misunderstanding with his wife.

He said his wife instigated her five children against him

after giving her N600 to prepare food for the family, alleging that she often failed to prepare food even when he provided money.

He said on the day of the incident, the woman had failed to prepare food for him and this led to a misunderstanding between them, adding that the children then took turns to attack him.

He said he was not happy with the development, which made him scoop petrol from his sawing machine and wet the children's room before igniting it.

Ojo, who said the mother of the five stepchildren was his fourth wife, revealed that two of his wives left him after minor misunderstandings, while the third died some years ago.

③