

## metro

... City, Crime, Courts

08062135542, 07098819951

# Landlord, two siblings fire guts buildings

Eniola Akinkuotu

A fire at a building in the Oworo area of Lagos on Friday resulted in the death of a 54-year-old man, Mr. Ajani Moses.

This occurred as two siblings were killed in another fire incident at Ikota Housing Estate in the Ajah area of the state on Sunday. The children's parents also sustained burns.

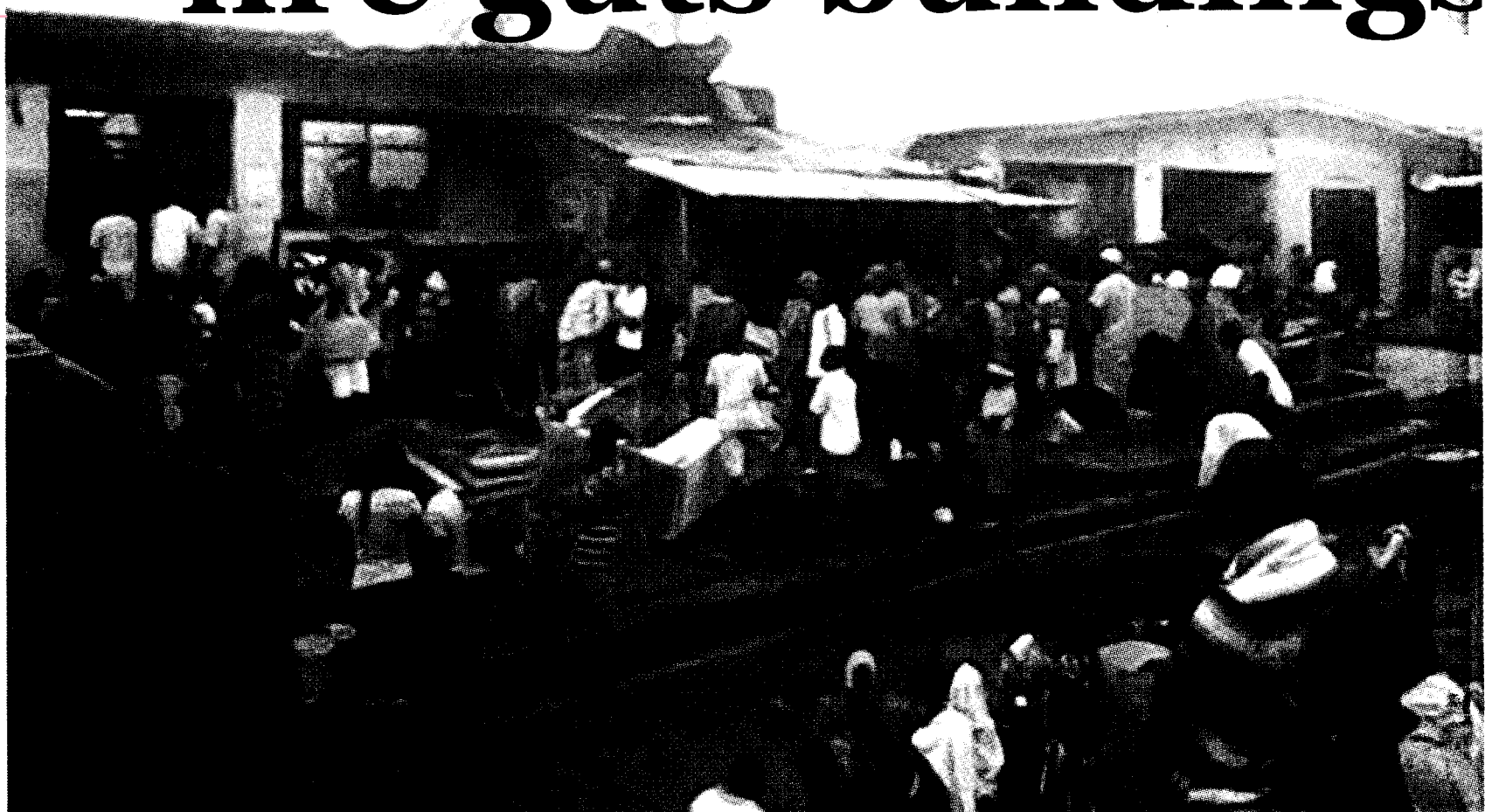
PUNCH Metro learnt that Moses, the landlord of the property at 8, Sanyaolu Street, Oworonshoki, was trapped in his room by the fire, making it impossible for people to save him.

According to an eyewitness, the fire began around 4:30am after electric equipment malfunctioned following fluctuations in power supply.

It was learnt that people in the neighbourhood had rushed to the building, which had 13 rooms, and evacuated over 20 occupants but Moses, who was said to be ill, was trapped.

A resident, Mr. Kabiawu Babajide, said the deceased was burnt beyond recognition, adding that some of the occupants also sustained injuries suffered from smoke inhalation.

He said, "Between 4 and 5am, we learnt that a building was on fire and we immediately rushed to the scene. We began evacuating the occupants and tried for hours to put out the fire with water and detergent but it continued to rage.



• Sympathisers in front of the building where the landlord died. Insets: The Landlord's grave (upper). Photos: Eniola Akinkuotu

"Around 6am, men of the state fire service came to the scene and succeeded in dousing the flames. Unfortunately, no one knew that the landlord was in his room and probably because the man was ill and was alone, he was not able to exit his room quickly."

PUNCH Metro learnt

that some hoodlums in the area attempted to make away with some of the salvaged property but were immediately dispersed by policemen who rushed to the scene.

Meanwhile, the second fire outbreak had occurred in the apartment of Mr. and Mrs. Wusuwa Goldih, on Sunday resulting in the death of their

two children

When contacted on the phone, the Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Joseph Jaiyeoba, said the parents of the deceased children were receiving treatment in a nearby hospital.

Jaiyeoba could not however confirm the death of the landlord at Oworo.

He said, "Around 3am

on Sunday, fire gutted the apartment of Mr. and Mrs. Wusuwa Goldih at 100b,

Ikota Housing Estate, Ajah. Their two children were burnt to death while the

## Fleeing kidnapper

Chukwudi Akasike,  
Port Harcourt

Men of the Rivers State Police Command on Saturday shot and killed a fleeing kidnapper,

who abducted a one-year-old baby from his parents.

The baby identified simply as Delight was abducted from his parents' resident on the outskirts of Port Harcourt six days before he was rescued

## Mentally-challenged persons attack motorists in O

Motorists and residents of Osogbo, Osun State capital, have lamented the threat posed by mentally-challenged persons, who attack vehicles and residents in various parts of the metropolis.

Mentally-challenged persons and beggars have become a regular feature on major roads of the state capital such as Oke-Fia, Ola-Iya, Alekuwodo, Oja-Oba, Old Garage, Ayetoro, Station, Olonkoro, Ogo-Oluwa, and Powerline.

Other roads, where mentally-challenged persons are rampant are Ilesa Garage Road, Old

Iwo Road, West Bypass, Stadium and Kobo areas.

A mentally-challenged man was seen smoking Indian hemp at Ola-Iya Junction, last Tuesday, while another one was seen chasing vehicles in Oke-Fia.

A motorist, Mr. Tope Ajani, said he almost had an accident when a mentally-challenged man, suddenly jumped onto the road near Fakunle Grammar School, Osogbo, causing him to swerve.

A retailer at Fagbewesa Junction, Miss Saida Bello, said a naked and mentally-challenged man, swooped on her shop and carted away 11 bags of sachet water,

some few weeks ago.

"He took the 11 bags of sachet water and poured them into a nearby drainage," she said.

Another mentally-challenged person - woman - pushed a primary school pupil into drainage on Monday along Odi-Olowo Road, prompting passersby to beat and chase her away.

The mentally-challenged woman hit at imaginary objects and moving vehicles, causing panic among motorists and residents.

A mentally-challenged male also frequents Oke-Fia - Alekunwodo - Ola-

Tunde Odesola, Osogbo

Iya - Odi Olowo area of the state.

The Commissioner for Home Affairs, Tourism and Culture, Mr. Sikiru Ayedun, said the state government

would rehabilitate mentally-challenged persons roaming the streets.

He said, "We are trying to take them up for rehabilitation. What we are doing is to identify those who are okay but still come out to beg and those who

are mentally-challenged. We will rehabilitate them by taking them off the roads."

The Commissioner for Information and Strategy, Mr. Sunday Akere, said the state government had equipped a home for the



• A mentally-challenged man on a street in Osogbo, Osun State. Photo: Tunde Odesola.



**A**stheworldmarksEnvironmental Day on Monday (today), the United Cement Company of Nigeria Limited on Saturday compelled traders and trailer drivers occupying a community park close to its Mfamosing factory in Akamkpa Local Government Area of Cross River State to clean up the environment.

## Firm compels traders to clean up park

The park serves as a waiting spot for drivers who are in a queue to load cement from the company's factory.

However, before the exercise on Saturday, the park which has open shops occupied by food vendors, liquor dealers,

**Mudiaga Affe, Calabar**

welders, vulcanisers, among others was unkempt.

No fewer than 30 traders turned up for the exercise; and they ignored the downpour to ensure that the

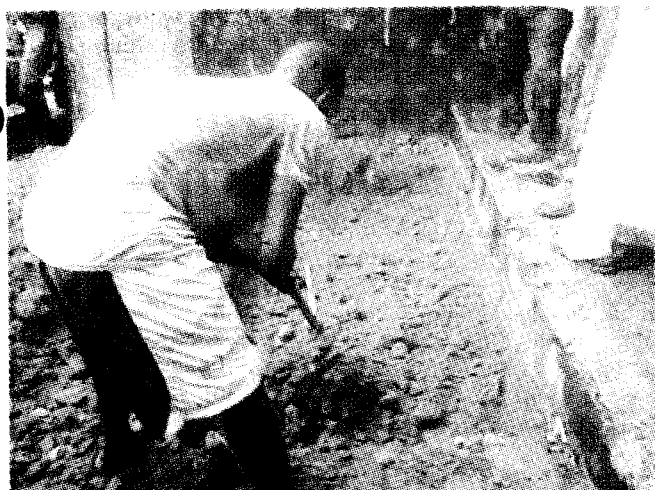
environment was cleaned.

Speaking with journalists after the exercise, the Environment Coordinator of UNICEM, Mr. John Nya, said the company deemed it necessary to partner operators because of the health hazard

the filthy environment could constitute.

Nya said, "This is a community park is very close our Mfamosing factory and that is why we have come to enforce this sanitisation exercise. We have had to do a lot of sensitisation programme to achieve this.

## die as



parents were severely burnt and are presently receiving treatment in a nearby hospital.

"The cause of the fire and value of property destroyed have yet to be ascertained."

## er shot dead in Rivers

by security operatives.

It was gathered that the kidnappers had immediately established contacts with the baby's relatives and got a cheque of N600,000 as ransom.

## sogbo

mentally-challenged in Ode-Omu.

Akere, who spoke on Thursday, in Osogbo, said the Lagos State Government, sometime ago, wrote the Osun State Government to convey some Lagos-based mentally-challenged Osun indigenes to their home state.

He said, "We went to Lagos and brought all of them to Osun. There were 38 of them. We took them to the home we have prepared for them in Ode-Omu. Many of them are afflicted with minor mental health challenges and we are doing our best check the situation."

Unknown to the kidnappers, the police, according to a source, got wind of the development and trailed one of them identified simply as Christian to Access Bank, Rumuokoro, where he had gone to cash the cheque.

The Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Ben Ugwuegbulam, said Christian, who confessed to the crime, took security operatives to Rumuokwuri in the state capital, where they held the baby hostage.

The PPRO said, "Following discreet investigation, operatives of the command trailed one Christian, who kidnapped one Delight, a year and two-month-old child, from his parents' house, to Access Bank Rumuokoro branch, where he went to cash the sum of N600,000 ransom he got from the child's parents and arrested him.

"On interrogation, he confessed to committing the crime and led operatives to his hideout at Rumuokwuri in Port Harcourt to rescue

the victim."

Headed that the kidnapper jumped through the window and almost escaped before he was gunned down by the policemen.

The police spokesman stated that security agents had to fire at him when he could not be arrested.

He said, "However, soon after the child was rescued, the suspect jumped through the window and took to his heels. He was pursued and when it became difficult to re-arrest him, he was fired at.

"This resulted in his death before he could be taken to the hospital for treatment. One other member of the gang Virginia (female) was arrested and a Nokia mobile phone belonging to the mother of the victim was recovered from their hideout."

Ugwuegbulam added that the baby had since been handed over to his parents while investigation was in progress to get other members of the gang.

## Police foil ATM robbery, recover N3.4m

**Eniola Akinkuotu**

**T**he Lagos State Police Command on Saturday morning foiled a robbery on an Automated Teller Machine at Festac branch of Skye Bank Plc, recovered N3.5m and arrested some of the suspects.

The robbers were said to have tied up two security guards attached to the bank and broke the ATM with chisels, two gas cylinders and guns.

PUNCH Metro learnt that after getting wind of the robbery, the Area Commander, Area E Command, Mr. Dan Okoro, sent his men to the scene.

Our correspondent learnt that a gun duel subsequently ensued between the policemen and the bandits who were five in number.

But despite sustaining gunshot wounds, the robbers managed to escape after shooting police sergeant, Mr. Femi Ikupoluyi.

A senior policeman however told our correspondent that following a tip-off, policemen later arrested four of the suspects and

recovered their arms-18 hours after they escaped.

Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Joseph Jaiyeoba, who confirmed the incident to our correspondent on the telephone, said Ikupoluyi was responding to treatment at an undisclosed hospital.

He said, "On June 2, 2012, around 3am, a police patrol team attached to Area E Command, responded to a

distress call regarding an attempted robbery at the ATM at Skye Bank, Festac. The robbers succeeded in tying the two bank security guards at the hands and feet.

"They damaged the ATM but policemen exchanged gunfire with the robbers and the police sergeant was shot in the leg. Two gas cylinders, two big chisels, three ATM money

cassettes (a component of the ATM) and the sum of N3.48m abandoned by the hoodlums, were recovered.

"The injured policeman was immediately rushed to a hospital where he is responding to treatment."

Jaiyeoba however said he had yet to receive information about the arrest of the suspects.

## Robbers kill colleague in error during operation

**Segun Olatunji, Abeokuta**

**T**he police in Ogun State on Sunday said an armed robbery suspect was mistakenly shot dead by his colleague during a robbery in the Ogijo area of the state.

The police also said they had dislodged a cult group from the Ogun State College of Health Technology, Ilese Ijebu, and arrested two suspects.

The Police Public Relations Officer for the state, Mr. Muiywa Adejobi, said three suspected robbers had broken into the house of one Mojeed Jamiu and attempted to rob him when one of them mistakenly killed their colleague.

Adejobi, an assistant superintendent of police, said in a statement made available to journalists in Abeokuta, that following the accidental discharge

which instantly killed one of them, the two others fled the scene, leaving their colleague's corpse behind.

The PPRO said the police had taken the corpse to the mortuary of Olabisi Onabanjo University Teaching Hospital, Sagamu.

He said, "An armed robber misfires colleague: On Saturday, 2nd June at about 1300 hours, one Mojeed Jamiu 'M' of Ogijo area of Ogun State came to the station and reported that on June 1, 2012, at about 1300 hours, three armed men came to his house to rob him.

"Fortunately for Mojeed, one of the robbers misfired a colleague of his while the robbery operation was on. The body of the robber has since been deposited at OSUTH mortuary.

"One locally-made double-barrelled gun and three expended cartridges were recovered from the

scene by a team led by SP Toyin Afolagun, DPO Ogijo. Efforts are on to arrest the fleeing ones."

Concerning the dislodgment of the cult group from the College of Health Technology, the statement further stated that the police had arrested a 400 level student of the institution, Musediku Idris, and a female suspect, Bilikisu Jimoh, said to be a "non-student."

The police added that the cooperation of the school management with the security agencies made the dislodgement of the cult group possible.

They promised to uproot cultism from the various institutions of learning and the other places where the menace might still be existing, saying, "All hands are on deck to fight against cult activities in Ogun State."