

Kerosene explosion kills one, injures Anambra siblings

Tony Okafor, Awka

A kerosene fire has reportedly killed one and injured two siblings in Awka, the Anambra State capital.

The victims, *PUNCH* Metro learnt, were the children of Mr and Mrs Michael Anor.

The incident occurred on Sunday when fire started from one of the rooms after a keg of kerosene that was kept at

the back of a deep freezer exploded.

A source stated, "The fire trapped the three children, who were in the flat, but they were eventually rescued with varying degrees of injury by firefighters, who extinguished the fire after they were alerted by neighbours.

"One of the children died from the injuries sustained from the inferno, while the other two have

been transferred to the Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu Teaching Hospital, Awka, for treatment.

The Chief Firefighter in the state, Mr Martin Agbili, confirmed the incident to our correspondent.

He said, "We received a distress call about a fire outbreak at the Brave-Heart Flats on the first floor of a three-storey building, opposite the Marian Plaza and close to the St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church, Iyiagu Estate, Awka.

"We deployed our firefighters and two fire trucks in the scene. We extinguished the fire, but three children in the flat were burnt and were rushed to the Prime Specialist Hospital, Awka.

"The cause of the inferno was a kerosene explosion, which emanated from a keg of kerosene kept at the back of a deep freezer. The building was also saved and we conducted post-fire risk assessment of the building."

Order Imo farmer

The lawmaker representing the Oguta State Constituency in the state House of Assembly, Frank Ugboma, who visited the community, called on security agencies to bring the fleeing killers to justice.

The lawmaker pleaded with the villagers to remain calm as he would use his office to get justice for the bereaved family.

When contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer in the state, Orlando Ikeokwu, said

the police had swung into action.

He said, "Investigation into the killing has commenced. The good thing is that normalcy has returned to the community. The Commissioner of Police has given instructions that the killers must be apprehended immediately.

"Nobody can say for sure if the assailants were Pulani herdsmen or not. Investigation will uncover the irreal identities."