

4 Days After Wedding Husband, Wife Die In Fire

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In what could be aptly described as a new year tragedy, a newly wedded couple were burnt to death early yesterday at their makeshift home near NPA quarters on Victoria Island, Lagos.

The mystery fire which started at 2.30 a.m., burnt Mr. Emeka Agwu and his wife,

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•Charred bodies of the couple inside the burnt room.

Husband

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Chioma, to death while they were fast asleep.

Investigations also revealed that the couple's apartment was the only one gutted by the fire.

P.M. News gathered that the incident occurred four days after the couple got married in Lagos without the consent of the girl's parents.

A close relative of the deceased who identified herself as Victoria Okoli, told sympathisers at the scene that parents of the late Chioma, a JSS3 student, in a secondary school in Ebonyi State did not consent to their daughter marrying Emeka, who sells gas cylinders at Akin Adesola Street, Victoria Island.

Emeka, it was learnt, smuggled Chioma from the village to Lagos for the marriage attended by a few of his village

friends. Both husband and wife hailed from Ebonyi State.

Neighbours of the deceased described the fire which took their lives as mysterious because it did not spread to other apartments also built with planks.

They wondered why the fire started and ended in the couple's apartment without spreading to other houses.

Another occupant of one of the rooms in the quarters who gave his name as Baba Ibeji, described the fire as strange and baffling. According to him, the fire started inside the couple's room, burnt them to death and stopped. "There must be something behind it," he reasoned.

Investigations revealed further that the charred bodies of the couple had been deposited at the Lagos Island General Hospital by policemen from the Bar Beach Police Station.