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Midnight inferno consumes couple in Makurdi

Our Reporter

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From ROSE EJEMBI, Makurdi

Aman and his pregnant wife were on Valentine's Day burnt to death in a midnight inferno that engulfed their home at Akpehe Street close to Saviour Model Nursery and Primary School Makurdi, in the Benue State capital.

Sunday Sun learnt from neighbours that the fire outbreak, which was probably caused by electrical spark, started at about 1am, trapping the couple in their home.

One of the sympathizers who simply gave his name as Terso told our correspondent that the man identified as Mr. Raymond Avaan, and his wife, Florence, actually tried to escape from the raging fire but were prevented by the burglar proof doors, which were locked.

"We heard them shouting for help and we came out to help them but the intensity of the fire did not allow us move close to them. When the fire started, they both struggled to the door but were overwhelmed by the inferno. We watched helplessly as they died. It's so sad we couldn't do anything to save them."

While the tenants living in the next flat of the same block escaped unhurt, the Avaans were not so lucky as the fire burnt their bodies beyond recognition.

However, the quick response of the State Fire Service, which came just in time to put out the fire, saved the other flat. The residence, *Sunday Sun* gathered, is owned by the aide-de-camp to former Benue State governor, Senator George Akume.

At the time of filing this report, a black police van was seen conveying the charred bodies of the couple to the mortuary while people in the neighbourhood trooped to the house to sympathize with the other victims of the fire incident.

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