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# Lagos landlord killed in night inferno

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COLUMNS ~

A Lagos landlord in his late 70s, Alhaji Razaq Zubair, was on Wednesday night killed in an inferno that gutted his two storey building on No 12/14, Alhaji Razaq Street, adjacent Karimu Laka Street in Egbeda area of Lagos State.

The fire was first noticed around 11 pm on Wednesday. The inferno, which cause could not be ascertained at the time Daily Sun visited the residence yesterday morning, also destroyed property worth millions of naira.

A resident of the building, Emeka Okenwa, a university graduate, told Daily Sun that he was relaxing outside the building when he was alerted by the shout of fire! Fire!! Initially, he thought that the fire was burning in the neighbouring compound until he heard an explosion apparently caused by the air conditioning unit in the landlord's sitting room.

At that point, he ran inside to alert his co-tenants that the house was on fire. "Immediately, I ran upstairs to the landlord's apartment. On getting there, I met the door locked. I started banging on the door hoping that somebody would respond. One of the boys living with him, however, struggled to open the door. By the time I entered the sitting room, the whole place was filled with thick smoke. I made straight to the landlord's son's room, which was also smoky. However, I was able to drag him out of the apartment almost unconscious. He managed to utter the words. 'Baba is inside, Baba is inside'.

"I made another effort to locate where the landlord was lying only to be shaken by another explosion coming from cylinder of the fridge in the deceased's dining section. It was at that point I gave up on making any further move. Then, I ran downstairs to meet other neighbours, who had started shouting for help and calling the men of the Fire Brigade on phone," Emeka narrated.

According to him, the fire fighters later arrived at the building at about 11.45 pm, and he had to follow them inside the building to give them direction on how they could possibly rescue the landlord who was trapped inside. Even though the fire fighters put out the fire eventually, the landlord's body could still not be located that night owing to

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He said it was not until the next morning during another search for Alhaji Razaq that his body was found in the corner of the sitting room. I think the smoke would have suffocated him after he struggled to come out of his bedroom. Alhaji Razaq was buried yesterday morning in his compound according to Muslim's rites.

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