

Student dies in gas cylinder explosion, others injured

From David Onwuchekwa, Nnewi

DOMESTIC gas cylinder explosion, on Tuesday February 23, killed a medical student of Nnamdi Azikiwe University Teaching Hospital (NAUTH), Nnewi, whose name was given as Okoye Williams at No 150, Anazodo street, Okpuno, Nnewichi, Nnewi, Anambra State.

The explosion, our source said,

rocked a four storey building at about 4.30pm where final year students of the NAUTH medical students were using as hostel, and the moment the incident occurred at flat 4 on the second floor of the building, students and other occupants of the building started scampering for safety.

Many of the students were said to have jumped through the windows to escape being trapped in the resultant inferno. The deceased was one of those that took that risk of

jumping out of the window, according to the source.

The deceased was reported to have crash landed on his head after jumping through the window and sustained a fatal head injury that eventually led to his death before he could be taken to hospital.

One Uche Obu who suffered a first degree burns was said to have been rushed to Orthopedic Hospital, Enugu, while two other students, Eziliora Pascal and Okolo Franklin were receiving treat-

ment at the emergency unit of the NAUTH, Nnewi.

The body of the deceased was deposited at the hospital morgue.

One of the victims who sustained minor injuries due to the explosion who would not like his name published said he was only lucky to escape death as he was already choked and almost unconscious before he was taken to hospital.

He said that the residents of the four storey building thought that

their building was under attack as the explosion shook the building to its foundation, adding that the students whose windows were not barricaded started jumping out in panic.

When contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Anambra State Command, Awka, Mr Okechukwu Ali (DSP) confirmed the incident and said one student died, while another was taken to the National Orthopedic Hospital, Enugu for treatment.