

# Midnight fire kills woman, son in Aba

From **Ogbonnaya Ndukwe**, Aba

**TRAGEDY** struck in Aba, Abia State, as a fire cracker allegedly thrown by youths ushering in the New Year ignited an inferno in a

storey building, killing a woman and her 22-year-old son.

The fire cracker was said to have landed in stored kerosene inside the building, located along Amucha Street, off Ohanku Road,

Ndiegoro/Ngwa Road in Aba South Council Area, and immediately set the building on fire.

Witnesses said that the deceased mother and son were sleeping at the time, while some of their neighbours had travelled to their villages for the holiday.

Those that did not travel were said to have gone to midnight service, locking the gate from outside in order not to have problems entering their apartments on their return, which made it impossible for help to come from the outside when the fire started.

The woman's son was said to have escaped but later returned to assist his mother and, unfortunately, both of them got consumed by the inferno that razed the entire building and properties of the landlord and all his tenants.

A source in the area told Daily Sun that the remains of the deceased have been deposited in a private mortuary in the town, while the police have been alerted.

Efforts to speak with the Abia State police spokesman, Geoffrey Ogbonna, proved abortive but a senior police source in Aba said a report had been received but did not give further details.

## spirant, Nshe, varsity lecturer

and demanded N100 million ransom which they later reduced to N50 million.

"Where will they get that kind of money when people are just suffering everywhere? It baffles me why the Federal Government through the Minister of Communications and Digital Economy would make Nigerians go through hard experiences by subjecting them to SIM card registration and yet, this kind of thing would be happening without the perpetrators being apprehended.

"What is the relevance of that registration exercise? Where are we going in this country in this kind of situation. We pray that the former Council chairman be released safely, because he has done nothing to warrant his abduction."

Plateau State Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), ASP Ubah Gabriel Ogaba, confirmed the incident and said the Police Commissioner has mobilized their tactical team to ensure his safe release.

## Overseer regains freedom

released him between 6pm and 7pm, our source said.

Delta State Police Public Relation Officer (PPRO), DSP Bright Edafe, confirmed the release of the cleric by his abductors.

Prophet Enejeta was abducted on his way from the church on Thursday along-

side his wife, who was shot dead, and his sister-in-law. His sister-in-law, who was hospitalised, is still recuperating in an undisclosed location.

They were driving in their Lexus SUV when the kidnappers attacked them after a church programme in the university community.