

# Kerosene explosion: Death toll rises

**By Emmanuel Aziken,  
Emma Arubi & Laide  
Akinboade**

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**WARRI**—DEATH toll in the Warri kerosene fire explosion has risen as two more victims gave up the ghost yesterday at the Central Hospital, Warri, Delta State. The deceased are two weeks old Jonathan Olaya and three years old Beauty Esemecho.

Also, five more victims were rushed to the hospital yesterday night after using the killer kerosene in Warri and Effurun and are in critical condition at the emergency ward of the hospital. Meanwhile, the chance of survival of a 32-year-old mother of a three months old burnt child Mrs Esther Minama from Burutu Council Area is very slim as she has been placed on oxygen.

When *Vanguard* visited the Hospital yesterday, the mother of Jonathan wept uncontrollably while little Tosan's condition was very critical as she was burnt from head to her toes and was writhing in agony.

The Public Relations Officer of the hospital, Mrs Mary Ayagbe who conducted newsmen round the emergency ward disclosed that the mother of the two children has instructed that no lantern be lit in the house until further notice because of the fear of explosion. But 25 years old Okiemute decided to do the opposite when their mother had gone to sleep.

According to her, Okiemute said that it was in the process of lighting up the lamp that it exploded and burnt all three of them. Meanwhile, the Senate yesterday unanimously passed a resolution condoling with the people and government of Delta State over the incident.