

One dies as jealous lover sets girlfriend's residence ablaze in Bayelsa

By Samuel Oyadongha

YENAGOA—TRAGEDY struck weekend in Igbogene community, Yenagoa Local Government Area of Bayelsa State as a jealous lover simply identified as Obukulubu set ablaze the home of his girlfriend over alleged romance with a pastor.

Unfortunately, the girl identified as Elvina said to be an assistant to a pastor working with the New Baptist Church was burnt to death.

A security source, who spoke on condition of anonymity told *Vanguard*: "The pastor is in critical condition in an undisclosed hospital

while the assailant is in police protective custody."

The incident, which occurred about 3 am on Saturday, it was learned, caused panic in the area as residents battled to rescue the trapped victims.

Though some residents claimed that the house was owned by the family of the girl, others said it was rented by the pastor.

According to source, the exit door of the house was locked from outside when the targeted girlfriend, identified as Wilberforce, reportedly vacated her home for the pastor and his assistant who came from outside the state on an evangelical mission.

According to a resident, the suspect, who is a driver, had waited for his girlfriend to come home, "but got enraged on sighting her with a

man and another girlfriend. He waited for them to enter the house and used fuel to set fire round the house."

Another resident described the incident as a shock, saying: "These lovers were staying about three houses apart and no one suspected they were dating. It is unfortunate that the pastor's assistant died in the fire incident."

"I was told the pastor who is now fighting for his life was invited to preach in Yenagoa and the estranged girlfriend offered her home for them to be able to leave early."

Contacted on the development, spokesman of the Bayelsa Police Command, Asinim Butswat, confirmed the incident, saying investigation was ongoing.