



On behalf of Project Alert on Violence Against Women, I welcome you to this maiden edition of our e-newsletter, aimed at keeping the public informed about our activities in general, and some public interest cases of domestic and sexual violence in particular. Project Alert is not only an advocacy organization, but also renders practical support services to female victims of violence. These support services include counselling, legal aid, shelter, skills acquisition, and sometimes as evident in the cases we are reporting in this maiden edition, fund raising for medical assistance. Thus we call on you all to support Project Alert with your kind donations in cash and kind, which could either be paid into our account with Zenith Bank (**Project Alert. Survivors Fund; Account No. 1013113653** or brought to our office at **Ojodu-Berger**. Jointly we must work to end all forms of violence against women and young girls in Nigeria.

## Policeman Shoots Girl In The Face

On February 17th 2012, Corporal Emmanuel Ukujo attached to the Ifako Police station at Bariga shot Blessing Isambor on the face with an AK 47 and absconded with her younger sister to an unknown destination. He shot Blessing on the face for unknown reasons and locked her in the house leaving her to die. It is believed that Blessing's younger sister, Patience is Corporal Emmanuel's girlfriend. Blessing 21, was admitted at Lagos State University Teaching Hospital (LASUTH), Ikeja, for months, where she underwent emergency surgeries to extract the bullets from her cheek and hands, in order to save her life. She was subsequently discharged on June 22nd and asked to come in as an outpatient, pending three other surgeries she is slated for. The bills for Blessing's treatments so far has been borne by her mother (a

widow who worked as a house maid on till two months ago, when she got sacked for having to be away from work lots of times because of her daughter) and uncle, with donations from friends, neighbours and well-wishers. Worthy of note here is that the police apart from a paltry sum of about N50,000 (given in pieces at the initial time of the incident), have neither picked the hospital bills of Blessing, nor enquired about her welfare including feeding,



*Before*



*Now*

which has been difficult, considering both mother and daughter are not working due to the incident.

Presently Blessing is due for a second surgery to her damaged jaw and chin costing about N150,000. Unable to raise such funds, the family approached Project Alert for assistance; and also the fact that the legal aspect was also moving slowly. Though an orderly room trial within the police had since been completed and Corporal Emmanuel Ukujo was recommended for dismissal so as to face the law court, the dismissal letter is yet to be signed. Project Alert immediately commenced fundraising efforts to help with the surgery and also wrote a petition to the Lagos State Police Command in collaboration with Network on Police Reforms in Nigeria, NOPRIN, copying the Inspector General of Police and the Chairman, Police Service Commission, Abuja, calling for urgent signing of the dismissal letter, in order for Corporal Ukujo to be arraigned before a court of competent jurisdiction, and payment of Blessing's medical bills by the police. Blessing's family is not supposed to face a second victimization of having to go around begging for money to treat their daughter, who was almost killed by a policeman for no just reason.

## Domestic Violence Burns Victim: Omoyemi Okoroafor.

Project Alert, would like to thank every individual or corporate organization, that donated towards the medical treatment (plastic surgery) of Mrs. Omoyemi Okoroafor, a domestic violence burns victim, for whom we established an appeal fund for in August 2011 (almost a year ago).

It is our pleasure to inform you, that Omoyemi is scheduled for surgery in Sept 2012. Your kind donations made this possible. We wish Omoyemi, a successful surgery in advance, and please continue to pray for her. We will definitely keep you informed of the outcome of the surgery. GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

Project Alert Team



# Latest On Burnt Housewife: Mercy Nnadi



**W**e would like to inform members of the public, that on Tuesday July 16, 2012, Mercy Nnadi, who had been on admission at New Evolution Clinic, Okota, since April 8, 2012, was finally discharged to officials of the Lagos State Ministry of Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation, after payment of the sum of N830,000 being hospital bills incurred during the period of her admission.



Mercy was thereafter taken to Lagos State University Teaching Hospital, LASUTH, for further treatment and assessment by a burns surgeon. Mercy is in stable condition now, and appreciative of the interest and support, the government, the 3 NGOs (Project Alert, COD and Zahara Women) taking the lead in her care and rehabilitation; and the general public, have given her. Your funds would ensure continued treatment for Mercy, and a place, she will call home.



Once again a very big thank you to everyone of you who contributed to the Mercy Nnadi Fund and GOD BLESS.

Signed:  
Project Alert on Violence Against Women  
Centa for Organizational Development  
Zahara Women Foundation

# Case of Child Sexual Abuse/Incest

**M**s. Ngozi Uku (not real names) was only 12 years old in 2007 when her ordeal into the world of pain and sorrow begun. Ngozi lived with her aunty somewhere in Lagos as her family had deemed it fit for her to go live with her aunt's family. Her aunt's husband raped her on several occasions until July 2009, when he got her pregnant, and both him and his wife, procured an abortion for her. Her aunt sent her out of the house thereafter and she sat outside of a stranger's house, until the owner of the house, a lady, got back at about 7pm to find her outside and asked her what she was doing there. Ngozi explained what happened to her and the lady took her to Child to Child Network, an NGO, from whence she was brought to Project Alert. Not seeing her back home that first night, and receiving information from a wheel barrow water seller in the neighbourhood, that he saw her on the next street, the aunt and her husband, quickly went to Denton Police station to allege kidnap of Ngozi by the kind lady, who took her in for the night, before taking her to Child to Child Network, from where she was brought to Project Alert.

Project Alert went with Ngozi to the police station so that Ngozi could inform the police the true happenings and also to exonerate the lady in question. It was at the police station that Ngozi revealed a lot of things and took the police to the place where her aunt and the husband took her to procure the abortion. The nurse who performed the unsafe abortion in the hospital, without the knowledge of the Medical Director of the hospital, was arrested, along with the couple,

and taken to the state Criminal Investigation Department, SCID, Pantii; and were later arraigned by the force PRO Lagos.

The criminal matter was later charged to the High Court in Lagos Island and as the case progresses, the family ran to a Family Court in Surulere, asking the court to order Project Alert to release Ngozi to the mother, who when the incident occurred, and up till one year after, the family had said, she was in the United States of America, and could not come down or speak with us.

We challenged the request, and in January 2012, the Family Court sitting in Surulere ruled that Ngozi be taken to the Girls Remand Home, Idi-araba, while hearing continued into the matter. Victory came in June 2012, when the Family Court ruled that Ngozi's family was unfit to have her, and as such ordered that she be fostered. Once again this was victory for Project Alert, as anywhere but her family of birth is safe for Ngozi, who is now 17 years old.

