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Who cares about 5,000 people in Nigeria?

Frank Kauffman Mar . 15 . 2004

More than 5,000 people were displaced when a fire ravaged through 600 makeshift houses and 300 shops last Tuesday night in the Oko-Baba area of Ebute Metta, Nigeria. The fire is believed to have been started by a candle lighted by one of the residents. But who really cares about 5,000 people living in a slum area in Nigeria? It's certainly not interesting news, judging by the headlines of the major international newspapers.

It's very disheartening to read the many meaningless headlines of the front pages, while the story of 5,000 poor people couldn't make the cut. For me, their story was heart breaking. Tuesday morning their neighborhood went up in flames. This event is news worthy, but ask any major media news editor and he/she will tell you that no one is really concerned with 5,000 poor insubstantial people in Nigeria.

I hope that some young students reading *The Kansas City Aurora* today will make this world a better place in the future as they go on into their professional careers, and make sure that the story of 5,000 poor people is told before it is too late and this tragedy is completely ignored.

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