

Plateau mob set suspected phone thief ablaze

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| By James Abraham

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A suspected phone thief was on Tuesday set ablaze by a mob in Plateau State.

Eyewitnesses told *The PUNCH* in Jos that the incident occurred on Tuesday afternoon in Apata community, located in Jos North Local Government Area.

An eyewitness, Mathew Paul, who narrated how the incident occurred, said the suspect, believed to be armed, had allegedly snatched a phone at gunpoint before he was apprehended by residents.

“The thief, a young man, collected someone’s phone this afternoon and then fired a shot into the air to scare people,” Paul said.

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“However, people noticed that he was struggling with his gun. A mob quickly gathered, chased him, caught him and set him ablaze. Before security operatives arrived at the scene, he was already dead.”

Efforts to reach the Police Public Relations Officer in the state, Alabo Alfred, for comments were unsuccessful, as his phone was switched off as of the time of filing this report.

The incident has again drawn attention to the growing cases of mob violence in Plateau State, where suspected criminals are often lynched rather than handed over to law enforcement agencies.

Residents recalled that similar incidents were recorded last year in the Kabong community and the Jenta Adamu area of Jos North Local Government Area, where suspected phone thieves and cultists were also set ablaze by angry mobs.