



A bus set on fire by protesters at the ANPP party rally in Gusau, Zamfara State recently as supporters of Senator Sani Yarima and Governor Mahmuda Shinkafi clashed.

## Collapsed building: 21 dead as military takes charge

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**TWENTY-ONE** persons have been confirmed dead by the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) in the building that collapsed at Okoli Street, off Gimbiya Street, Abuja.

FCT Co-ordinator of NEMA,

Isiah Isa Chonoko, said yesterday that 20 dead bodies were recovered while one died in the hospital.

Another NEMA official, Segun Imohiosen, said 11 victims were rescued

alive, adding that the causality figure would have been higher if not because Muslims in the building went out for Subhi prayers.

Meanwhile, the military were seen yesterday controlling situation at the site with an army lieutenant-colonel taking charge.

The senior officer, who came along with one Lieutenant A.B. Ibrahim, positioned about 20 armed soldiers at strategic positions round the site to prevent people from disturbing rescue operations.

Policemen as well as officials of NEMA stood at a distance watching the rescue operation but no victim was recovered from the rubble as at 3 pm.

Family members of the victims were later allowed in to recover their relatives' belongings. One of the items seen was a wedding gown

that belonged to late Mrs Gloria Phil Sohe, who died when she rushed into the building to save her son, Issac.

Others were pictures, bags, mosquito net, football jerseys and shoes.

Mrs Josie Mudashiru, public relations officer of the Development Control unit of FCDA, said yesterday that they have commenced inspection of buildings that have been sealed and earmarked for demolition due to structural defects to forestall another building collapse.

One occupant of a marked building, Esther, said they are victims of el-Rufai's administration's demolition, hence they decided to move into an uncompleted building as they have no money to secure a better place to live.