

## Five killed in Benin mosque attack

Written by Vincent Egunyanga, Benin  
Wednesday, 11 January 2012 05:03

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Five people were killed when a mob attacked a mosque in Benin, Edo State, yesterday, forcing thousands of Muslims to flee the area, an aid worker whose organisation works in the area told Reuters news agency.

“It was an attack on a mosque. I know some people were attacked there and five were killed,” the aid worker told Reuters news agency. “People in that state of northern extraction are at risk and are leaving. Around 3,000 people have fled.”

A group of youths tried to attack a Hausa community leader’s house but it was defended by Hausa youths and the police then intervened.

An Islamic school operated by the Federation of Muslim Women Association of Nigeria (FOMWAN) was also attacked and a school bus burnt down.

Chief Imam of Benin central mosque Abdulfatah Enabulele confirmed the attack to Daily Trust, saying the youths came at around 12pm yesterday and set the mosque on fire. But the Imam didn’t confirm any deaths,

He said the Benin central mosque comprehensive school, library, office of the Imam, generator and two motorcycles were burnt during the attack.

He urged government at all levels to protect its citizens, both Christians and Muslims.

Edo State Police commissioner David Omojola also confirmed the attack but said the fire was quickly put off and some arrests were made.

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The latest violence started in Benin on Monday when a group attacked a mosque, leaving 10 people injured.

A leader of the Hausa community in Benin told the BBC's Hausa Service that 7,000 northerners were seeking refuge in police and army barracks in the city.

The Nigerian Red Cross confirmed to the BBC that they were registering northerners at police stations and army barracks.