

# 24 Eight killed as 150-year-old mosque collapses in Zaria

Daniel Ayantoye and Godwin Isenyo,  
Kaduna

**A**t least eight worshippers were killed and 25 others sustained injuries as a section of the 150-year-old Zaria Central Mosque collapsed on Friday during prayer session.

The incident, it was learnt, occurred at about 4pm while the worshippers were praying.

One of the survivors, Mallam Shehu Nagari, said the incident happened when they were in the second Sujud of Asr prayer.

According to him, the affected portion of the mosque suddenly collapsed on those sitting directly under it.

Nagari said all he knew was that the affected worshippers were covered by the rubble because the section was built with mud over 150 years ago.

As of the time of filing this report Nagari said he couldn't ascertain the actual number of victims involved in the incident.

The Emir of Zazzau, Mallam Ahmed Nuhu Bamalli, who confirmed the incident, said the victims were observing the Asr prayer around 4pm when the incident occurred.

"We had earlier observed a crack on the wall of the mosque yesterday (Thursday) and were planning to deploy a team of civil engineers to effect repairs when this unfortunate incident happened," he added.

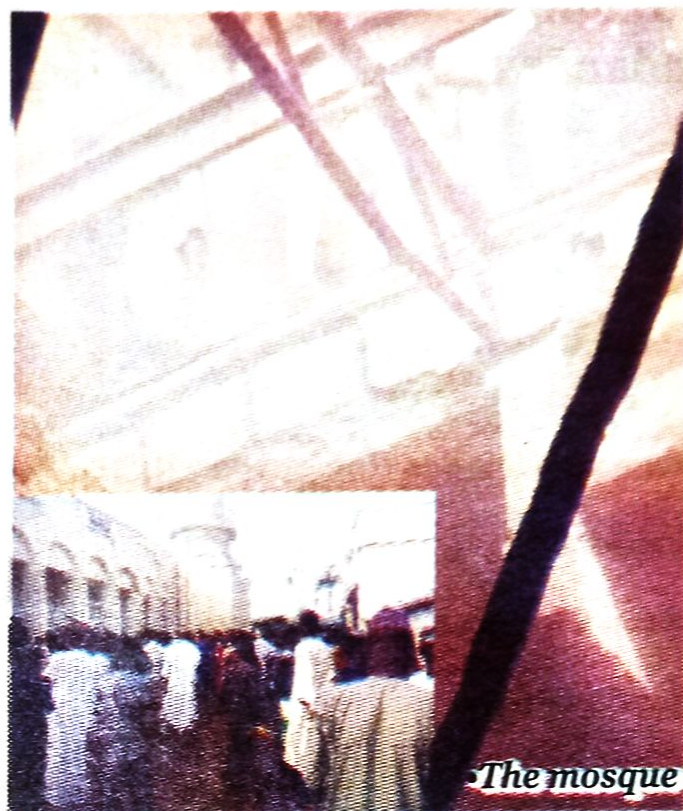
The monarch, while offering his condolences to the family of the victims, asked Muslim faithful to pray outside the mosque pending the repairs. He said funeral prayer for the corpses would be observed at 8.30pm later on Friday at the palace.

Meanwhile, the Kaduna State Police Command on Friday night confirmed the death of eight persons in the incident.

Speaking to one of our correspondents on Friday night, the police spokesperson in the state, Mohammed Jalige said, "Yes the

incident happened and unfortunately eight people died while 25 people were rescued after the incident.

"The state Commissioner of Police has directed a full-scale investigation, with a view to unveiling the cause of the collapse. But currently, we know that there was this ancient building built by one of the emirs in the past and it has been there I think for more than 100 years. It was not demolished even after the renovation of the mosque."



## Father of three needs

Victor Ayeni

**A** father of three, Gbenga Oladimeji, has made a passionate appeal to Nigerians to help him raise N15m in order to undergo a kidney transplant.

Oladimeji, flanked by his wife and three children, made the appeal in a video, disclosing that he had exhausted all his finances to treat the kidney problem.

City Round gathered that the father of three, who appeared emaciated, has been on dialysis which he undergoes thrice in a week at a cost of N70,000 for

each procedure.

He stated, "I am Gbenga Oladimeji and I have a kidney problem. The doctor said I would need about N15m to do a kidney transplant. I have tried to pool some money together but it is being spent on dialysis.

"That is why we have not been able to gather enough money to afford the transplant. My stomach is now distended due to a lack of funds to go for dialysis."

His wife, Bolaji, who was moved to tears while appealing for help, also urged citizens to come to their rescue as she had no other means to raise money