

# KANO MOSQUE ATTACK: Residents count losses as death toll hits 17

By Bashir Bello

Residents of the Gadan village in Gezawa Local Government Area of Kano State have continued to count their losses following an attack on a mosque in the area.

This is as no less than 17 people have been confirmed dead in the unfortunate incident.

A 38-year-old Shafi'u Abubakar had on Wednesday while worshippers were observing early morning Subhi prayers, launched an attack on a local mosque.

Abubakar, who was said to be angry following a prolonged family disagreement over the sharing of inheritance, had allegedly sprayed the religious building with petrol, locked the door, and set it on fire while the worshippers were praying, trapping over 30 of the worshippers inside the mosque.

Narrating his experience, the Imam of the mosque, Saidu Haliru, who was alleged to be one of the persons targeted in the attack, said he was saved by providence.

Haliru, who spoke to Sunday Vanguard, said he was alive because he missed prayers on the fateful day but his younger brother who conducted the prayers was not that lucky.

According to him, "On that fateful day, as God would have it, I woke up late to attend the early morning prayers in the mosque. So it was my wife who woke me up that my mosque was on fire. I fetch water to quench it. Initially, I thought the fire incident was a result of an electric spark. So it was later we discovered it was not so.

"After we opened the door of the mosque, we met people with various degrees of burnt. Initially, we don't know who carried out the dastard act but later we learnt the suspect surrendered himself to the police. "I also lost my brother, Yusuf who led the prayer on that fateful day". Meanwhile, a resident of the area, Hamisu Abdullahi Ganda confirmed the number of mortality to be 17.

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