

Northwest Nigeria residents say armed bandits killed 15 in mosque

At least 15 people were killed at a mosque in the Zamfara state of northwest Nigeria on Saturday, locals said.

Three locals told Reuters that the attack in the Bukkuyum local government area happened during Friday prayers at the Jumu'at central mosque in Ruwan Jema town.

Amimu Mustapha, a local resident, said, "The armed bandits came on motorbikes with guns in hand, went straight to the mosque, and started shooting at us at random."

Another person who didn't want to be named said that the attack happened around 2 p.m. local time and that many other people were hurt.

A spokesman for the Zamfara state police did not answer calls or text messages right away from people who wanted to confirm what the residents said.

In August, people from Ruwan Jema said they gave bandits \$21,000, gasoline, and cigarettes, along with 9 million naira, so the men would leave them alone.

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