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4 Killed By Lightning Strike in Kisoro, Uganda

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At least four people have been killed by lightning that struck a school in Kisoro district on Thursday.



Pupils of Runyanya Primary School in Kiryandongo district hospitalised after they were struck by lightning in 2011

The incident happened at about 1:30pm at Nkurungiro Primary school in Gisiza village, Gasovu Parish Nyarusiza Sub County.

The school has also been serving as a child development Centre of Compassion International.

The deceased were taking shelter at the verandah of a classroom during a heavy down pour.

The dead are Niyonzima 22, a Rwandan National, 23-year-old Mahirwe, Habasa who is aged 20 and Denis Niringimana, a six-year-old primary one pupil at Nkurungiro primary school.

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Three other people were severely injured after being struck by lightning at three separate locations in Kisoro district. They are Peace Akampire 15, of Gihuranda village Nyarubuye sub county, Siyadora Jane Female who is aged 17 and Nirangwiza Jackline from Kanaba trading centre in Kanaba Sub County.

The bodies of the deceased were picked by police and taken to Kisoro hospital for a postmortem, while the injured are also receiving treatment at the same hospital.

Kisoro Hospital Medical Superintendent Dr. Michael Baganizi said that the survivors sustained serious injuries and are receiving treatment.

Kigezi regional Police spokesperson Elly Maate described the incident as unfortunate and asked owners and managers of public places such as schools to always install lightning arrestors to minimize the risk.

Incidents of lightning are very common in Kisoro especially in the areas near Bwindi and Mughahinga National Parks where various mineral deposits are believed to be found.

In August 2012, lightning struck dead five people in two separate incidents in Bufumbira North County, Kisoro District. The dead were residents of Nombe Village, Rubuguri Parish in Kirundo Sub County.