

Al Shabaab storms Garissa University College in Kenya; 30 hospitalized, hostages taken

From [The Guardian](#) has a report that at least 15 people are dead but the number of hostages is unknown.

A mortuary attendant in Garissa said at least 15 were dead.

Witnesses said the attackers had shot indiscriminately at students and teachers who had been woken up by the mayhem. "They are just shooting randomly," Augustine Alanga told the BBC World Service. A policewoman told Reuters the gunmen were likely to have taken hostages because many students remain trapped inside the campus. "Two guards who were manning the gate at the university have been killed," she said. "We can hear gunshots from inside the compound but at this point we can't tell who is shooting at who or what."



North-east Kenya is one of the most impoverished parts of the country, where residents blame the state for years of marginalisation that has made the region an easy target for al-Shabaab operations and recruitment.

Efforts have been made to reverse the economic depredations in the area. The university, opened in 2011, is one of the key projects rolled out by the government. It has a student population of about 900, many of them from other parts of the country. The pattern in other al-Shabaab attacks in recent years has been for the militants to [separate Christians from Muslims](#) and kill them at close range.

The students above who escaped look to be Muslim, and of Somali background. However it is reported that the attack started with firing on the mosque during morning prayer.