

MONDAY MARKET MAIDUGURI

Suicide bombers likely to be sent by Boko Haram have on several occasions attacked Monday Market, in the centre of Maiduguri, despite security checks with metal detectors manned by Civilian JTF members.

At least 20 people were killed on 1 July 2014 when a bomb detonated just outside the market. A human rights activist and eyewitness who was there when the bomb exploded told Amnesty International about the damage caused by the attack: "I counted 20 dead bodies and three injured people. Those injured had their hands and feet damaged by the explosion. We began loading the dead bodies into a Civilian JTF car...The explosion left a hole in the ground about the size of a car... A temporary shack for selling fruit was on fire and about eight vehicles and five or six trolleys were burned in the attack."¹⁶⁴ He said there was a dead woman near the hole who could have been the suicide bomber. The damage on her corpse suggested that the bomb had exploded in her face and chest.

A comparison of before and after satellite images shows damaged buildings and vendor stalls at the south entrance to Monday Market. Approximately 825 square metres had been damaged to varying degrees.¹⁶⁵

On 25 November, 43 civilians were killed and many wounded after two suicide bombers detonated their bombs at the market.¹⁶⁶ Haruna (not real name), a 15-year-old boy doing odd jobs at Monday Market, told Amnesty International that the two bombs exploded within minutes of each other. He was injured on his legs and bystanders took him to hospital where he received treatment.¹⁶⁷ Abubakar (not real name), a 68-year-old man, was injured on his chest and feet; he remembers the blast as he entered the market, and woke up when he was in hospital. Ibrahim (not real name) was on his motorbike 100 to 200 metres from the market when the first bomb exploded. He told Amnesty International that bystanders brought wounded people to the hospitals. When the security forces arrived, he said there was distrust, and people threw stones at them. He said people blamed the security forces for the bombing because they did not prevent it.¹⁶⁸

A week later, on 1 December 2014, two female suicide bombers carrying explosives on their back in wrappers as if they were babies detonated their bombs. Yusuf Mohammudu (not real name) was at the entrance of the market and saw the women. Civilian JTF members asked to check their bags and asked them to show what was under their hijab. The first woman moved her hands to her back and detonated her bomb. Garba Ibrahim (not real name), a clothes seller, saw the second woman run into the market and detonate her bomb there. The bombs killed the two women plus two other people and 13 people were treated for their injuries in hospital.¹⁶⁹

On 10 January 2015, two female suicide bombers detonated two bombs around midday. Twelve people, three women and nine men, were immediately killed and one person died in hospital; 38 people, including children, were taken to hospital for their injuries.¹⁷⁰

¹⁶⁴ Amnesty International interview, July 2014. Amnesty International interviewed two activists who documented the bombing. One of them was at the market when the bomb exploded.

¹⁶⁵ DigitalGlobe imagery dated 28 June 2014 and 4 July 2014.

¹⁶⁶ Amnesty International interviews, November 2014.

¹⁶⁷ Amnesty International interview, January 2015.

¹⁶⁸ Amnesty International interviewed eight people, including four eyewitnesses to the bombing, in November 2014.

¹⁶⁹ Amnesty International interviewed five people, including two eyewitnesses to the bombing.

¹⁷⁰ A human rights activist who was at the scene to help saw 12 corpses and counted the number of