

Soldier killed in fresh bomb blast in Maiduguri

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BARELY some hours after a bomb exploded in Gwange area of Maidugur another bomb suspected to be planted by the members of the Yusufiya sect popularly known as Boko Haram went off yesterday in Dala area of Maiduguri Metropolitan Council killing a soldier and injuring three others including a civilian.

Confirming the incident, spokesman of the JTF Lt Col. Hassan Mohammed told newsmen on phone that some persons planted an IED near a high tension electricity pole in Dala and detonated it when JTF vehicle was passing; adding that the explosion

later engulfed the area. *

He said the fire was ignited as a result a petrol hawker at a road side near a mechanic workshop destroying some private cars, stressing that the injured had been rushed to the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital (UMTH) for medical attention.

He said the JTF has also commenced investigations and that a number of suspects have been arrested in connection with the blast.

Some residents who spoke to our correspondent accused the JTF of setting the area ablaze leading to destruction of cars and not a petrol hawker as JTF claimed.

He said: "I was about leaving my house to my shop when I heard the explosion. I knew that it was a sign of danger, before I could do anything I began to hear sound of gun shots everywhere, the soldiers went wild after the blast and began shooting sporadically and later set ablaze some nearby shops and private cars in the area.

He said he could not say exactly the number of casualties but he saw many cars and shops burning.

Confirming the killing of the soldier, the Operation Officer of the JTF Col. Victor said they lost one of their men in the bomb blast. 