

2 kids die, 3 injured in explosion

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TWO children who were hawking along the Gamboru market in Maiduguri were killed yesterday when a bomb which was planted near the wall of the Borno/Yobe office of the Nigerian Customs exploded.

The shrapnel of the explosion also injured three customs officers while part of the wall of the building collapsed.

"I think the bomb was hidden in the nearby garbage and it exploded shortly after a convoy of army vehicles passed the place," Muhammed Sani, a trader at Gamboru Market said.

"Two people died in the blast... these are children believed to have followed their parents to hawk in the place," he said. At the time of filing this report, it could not be confirmed whether the explosive was targeted at the customs office or security operatives patrolling the metropolis. The incident occurred around 2.30pm, less than 24 hours after a similar incident claimed the lives of many people at a drinking joint at Dala on the outskirts of Maiduguri. The sound of yesterday's explosive caused serious pandemonium at the nearby market. "Many people sustained serious injuries," Kanna Modu, an elderly woman who also hawked in the area said. The customs officers that sustained injuries have been taken to the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital (UMTH). The new Commandant of the Joint Military Task Force, Major General Jack Okechukwu Nwaogbo who confirmed the incident had earlier in the day addressed a press conference where he explained the mission of the new joint task force.