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Suicide bomber shot in Maiduguri

Written by Yahaya Ibrahim, Maiduguri Tuesday, 16 August 2011 05:05

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The spirited attempt by a young man suspected to be a member of the Boko Haram sect to blow up the Borno State Police Command headquarters in Maiduguri was thwarted yesterday when police guards managed to shoot the man before he could explode the bomb-laden vehicle

suspected suicide bomber, estimated to be in his mid-twenties, crashed his ash-coloured Honda Accord car into the gates of the police command headquarters at 12.15pm. In the process, he knocked down several policemen at the gate. But armed police guards recovered quickly and opened fire. The driver was hit; he lost control of his vehicle and crashed it into a tree right in front of the command's main building.

At the time of the attack, some 1500 young men who have applied for enlistment as police cadet inspectors were undergoing a screening exercise at the police training school adjacent to the police command headquarters.

Borno State police commissioner Simeon Midenda, who briefed newsmen, said a suspected bomber forced himself into the command headquarters at 12.30pm with a Honda accord saloon car, knocking down policemen at the gate before heading towards the main building of the command.

He said when his men opened fire, the suspected suicide bomber slumped on the steering wheel inside the car. CP Midenda said when his men approached the vehicle, they found that it was loaded with gas cylinders connected together by wires.

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