

## 6 slaughtered as explosions rock Maiduguri

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Officials of the Joint Task Force (JTF) in Maiduguri yesterday said they have recovered 6 dead bodies of men who were slaughtered like rams by suspected Boko Haram members in the early hours of yesterday.

JTF spokesman, Lieutenant Colonel Hassan Ifijeh Mohammed, who confirmed the killings in a statement, said the killings took place at Kawar Maila area of Shehuri north of the state capital.

According to him, the deceased were also suspected members of the sect and the killings might have been as a result of internal friction.

“Preliminary investigation reveals that the 6 deceased persons were suspected to have been slaughtered by persons suspected to be their fellow sect members. The killings might have been as a result of division amongst the sect members,” Mohammed said.

Another source told Daily Trust that some suspected assailants trailed the victims to their houses in the dead of the night, knocked on their doors and slaughtered them with knives. Some residents said they only woke up in the morning to find dead bodies on the street.

A witness who does not want his name in print, said. “The victims were slaughtered in the presence of their family members.” Another witness said he witnessed how the assailants killed his father and fled. The incident took place around the area where 11 suspected sect members were recently picked and killed by soldiers.

Meanwhile, there were explosions in the early hours of yesterday in some parts of Maiduguri. The first blast occurred at about 12.30am around Baga Road. A resident, Kaomi, of Gomari airport area said loud sound of blasts forced him to wake up around 12am. The JTF spokesman confirmed the blasts but couldn't confirm casualties.