

3 killed in Maiduguri blasts

Written by Hamza Idris, Maiduguri
Tuesday, 07 February 2012 05:00

Three people are feared killed in Maiduguri yesterday as a result of multiple blasts that rocked parts of the Gamboru Market and a nearby pharmaceutical store.

Sources said the owner of the pharmacy and two of his employees were killed when the explosives destroyed the building that accommodated the pharmacy.

As at the time of filing this report, our correspondent could not ascertain the casualty figure at the Gamboru market. Officials of the Joint Task Force (JTF) and the police were not readily available to comment on the matter.

Some witnesses said 3 explosives were planted at 'Yan Robobi area of the popular market and two others at D.K Pharmacy, one of the biggest pharmaceutical stores in the state capital.

"I think the explosives were detonated using remote control," Musa Jinjiri, a trader at the market said.

The market is a rallying point for merchants from many parts of Nigeria as well as neighbouring Chad, Cameroon and Niger Republics, said.

Trader Yagana Masa said she saw some vehicles and nearby tents in flames. "As I am talking to you now, thick black smoke has enveloped the surroundings of the market. Am sure there must be casualties," she said.

Daily Trust reports that the textile and household wares parts of the market were also gutted by fire about three month ago, a development which crippled the economic fortunes of hundreds of people.

Meanwhile, unknown gunmen had on Sunday night attacked a house in Ummarari ward of Maiduguri Metropolis and killed two people.

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No group has claimed responsibility for yesterday's attacks and that of Sunday.