

7 killed as blast rocks Maiduguri

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Written by Yahaya Ibrahim, Maiduguri Sunday, 02 September 2012 05:00

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The Joint Task Force (JTF) in Borno State yesterday said it killed five suspected members of Jama'atu Ahlis Sunnati Lidda'awati Wal Jihad, aslo called Boko Haram, sect members while two soldiers and a teenager sustained injury during a gun fight shortly after a blast went off in Ruwan Zafi area of Maiduguri Friday evening.

However, residents told Sunday Trust that they saw lifeless bodies of two soldiers at the scene of the blast, which was targeted at JTF troops.

A resident, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said two bodies of soldiers were seen on the floor while a white pick up van belonging to the JTF was in flames after an explosion at the Bola junction in Ruwan Zafi Friday evening. Apart from the seven people killed, scores of civilians and soldiers also sustained injuries, witnesses claimed.

Some traders in the area alleged that men likely to be soldiers had mobilized to the area

and set many shops ablaze.

The JTF spokesman denied this, insisting that it was the fire from the blast that burnt buildings.

In a statement to newsmen, the JTF spokesman, Lt Col Sagir Musa said, "There was an IED attack targeted at JTF Operation Restore Order patrol team at Ruwan Zafi , Dikwa Gamboru road in Maiduguri metropolis by suspected Boko Haram terrorists. Fuel propelled Improvised Explosive Device was used by terrorists during the attack which resulted in fire outbreak that burnt some adjoining shops.

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