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DEATH TOLL IN MONGUNO RISES TO 71



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Residents of Monguno town in northern Borno state who visited their loved ones at the specialist hospitals in Maiduguri, yesterday said the toll in Wednesday's blast in the town has risen to 71.

There have been conflicting reports on the number of casualties. While the media reported that 63 people died and over 30 were injured in the blast and hospital authorities said only 23 people died, residents of Monguno town declared a death toll of 71.

Baa Isa, one of the visitors who came to sympathise with their loved ones hospitalized in Maiduguri, yesterday spoke to Daily Trust, saying the number of the dead had risen to 71. "Some severely injured men died before they could reach the hospital. Other dead ones were discovered much later after evacuation had taken place," Isa said.

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