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3 COPS, 5 MILITANTS DIE IN DAMATURU ATTACK



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Three policemen and five Boko Haram militants believed to be suicide bombers were killed by a suicide bomb at a checkpoint on a highway at the outskirts of Damaturu, Yobe State, the state police command said yesterday.

Our correspondent gathered that the blast went off at about 11:30am close to the Damaturu township gate. State police spokesman, Toyin Gbadegeshin, told newsmen that eight people died from the blast.

He said five suicide bombers including a woman travelling in a Toyota Highlander jeep detonated the explosive when a police patrol team stopped them for search.

"One of the suicide bombers, a woman, concealed five explosives in her hand bag but they were defuse by the police", he said.

He added that two security personnel were at the Damaturu Specialist Hospital receiving treatment.

The spokesman said policemen stopped the cars suspecting that they were carrying explosives, and in the process trying to convey the suspects to the state police command, they detonated the Improvised Explosive Device (IED) which killed five people on the spot while three died in hospital.

He appealed to members of the public to cooperate with the police, comply with directives and assist with useful information.

The attack occurred three days after a similar one at the Eid ground in Damaturu where 15 people died and 41 were injured.

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