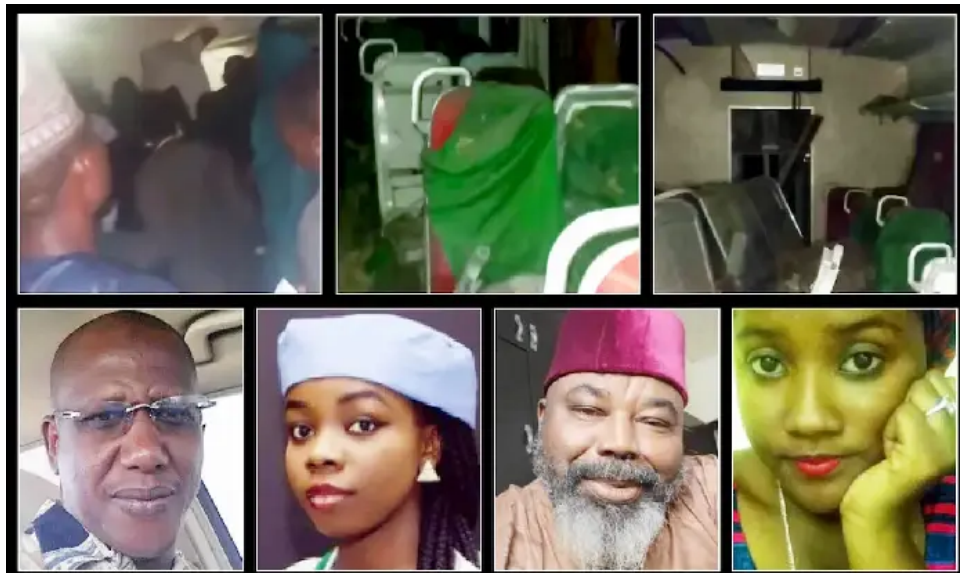




## NEWS

# Abuja-Kaduna Train Bombing: 9 Killed, Dozens Missing; Survivors Recount Ordeal

The train was forced to a halt after the terrorists planted bombs on the tracks. Witnesses said the attackers later surrounded most of the...



By Our Reporters

Wed, 30 Mar 2022 05:42:39 GMT





bombs on the tracks. Witnesses said the attackers later surrounded most of the coaches and opened fire before they forcefully gained access, fired at random, which led to the death of some people.

- **NIGERIA DAILY: No Road To The North As Terrorists Run Berserk In Kaduna**
- **Tension at Nigerian border communities after Cameroon's encroachment**

They also forced some of the travellers, among them dozens of women and children out of the train into the nearby bushes.

Some witnesses said about nine corpses from the ill-fated train have been recovered and deposited at the 44 Nigerian Army Reference Hospital Kaduna, while doctors have been battling to save the lives of those who sustained critical gunshot wounds.

Other sources said those killed were between nine and ten, while the Kaduna State government and the ministry of transportation put the casualty figure at eight.

Many families have taken to the social media where they announced the death of their loved ones while others said theirs were still missing because they could not be accounted

Sources at the Kaduna Train Station said two staff of the

**DAILYTRUST**[HOME](#)[NEWS](#)[BUSINESS](#)[POLITICS](#)[PODCAST](#)[VIDEOS](#)[AGRICULTURE](#)[SPORTS](#)[OPINION](#)[EDU](#)

The train, which had been attacked in the past reportedly left Abuja, the Nigeria's capital, at about 6 pm on Monday before it was attacked between Katari and Rijana communities in Kaduna State.

It was reportedly conveying over 350 passengers as the train service remained the "safest" in recent times as a result of the rampant attacks by terrorists on the Abuja-Kaduna Expressway, which had claimed hundreds of lives in the last few years.

With the latest incident, which prompted the suspension of train services through the Abuja corridor, access to Kaduna and by extension many parts of the North West and North East have been restricted considering the stoppage of most commercial flights to Kaduna following the terrorists' siege on the airport at the weekend.

Since the commencement of rail transportation between Abuja and Kaduna, thousands of travellers have avoided the 150km road and opted for the train, which appeared safer.

As of Tuesday morning, our correspondents gathered that about 25 victims who sustained gunshot wounds were receiving treatment at the 44 Nigerian Army Reference

Hospital and St. Gerard Hospital, all in Kaduna.

injured” said a staff of the military hospital who asked not to



**DAILYTRUST**

HOME

NEWS

BUSINESS

POLITICS

PODCAST

VIDEOS

AGRICULTURE

SPORTS

OPINION

EDU

Our correspondents who visited the army hospital observed panicking relatives at the waiting area as they moved around the emergency section to know the fate of their loved ones. Many of them were seen praying while others were caught in deep thought while awaiting the status of their relatives from the hospital authorities.

A health worker at the hospital who pleaded for anonymity confirmed to *Daily Trust* that nine bodies had been deposited at the hospital's mortuary. "So far, there are nine bodies all with gunshot wounds, in fact, one of the victim's head was badly damaged because he was hit by the bullet on the forehead."

### **Fresh attack on emergency train**

The Minister of Transportation, Rotimi Amaechi yesterday confirmed that eight people were killed during the attack. He stated this shortly after he visited the scene of the attack.

"The numbers we have showed that there are eight casualties. There are 25 persons in the hospital and the total number of passengers is 398," the minister told journalists.

It was learnt yesterday that there was a fresh attempt to attack

---

ONE OF THE EMERGENCY SERVICE TRAINS SHUTTLING BETWEEN ABUJA

---

However, our correspondents could not establish whether the

**DAILYTRUST**[HOME](#)[NEWS](#)[BUSINESS](#)[POLITICS](#)[PODCAST](#)[VIDEOS](#)[AGRICULTURE](#)[SPORTS](#)[OPINION](#)[EDU](#)

---

officials had visited the scene yesterday.

A source said military operatives succeeded in repelling the assailants based on the security report they received while on the train.

The visibly angry Amaechi told reporters that Monday's attack would have been foiled if his colleagues (who he didn't name) did not block the procurement of N3 billion high capacity rail track cameras and sensors that will eliminate all blind spots on the train corridors across the country.

"We knew what the problems will be. We know we needed to have digital security equipment on the corridors. We applied for it. Let me just stop here so I don't hurt so many people. But I heard the president has given a directive that the procurement must be completed immediately," he said.

According to him, "If we had those equipment on the tracks, you will see the entire track. And we warned that lives will be lost. Now lives are lost; eight persons dead and 25 persons are in the hospital. We don't know how many people have been kidnapped. And the cost of those equipment is just N3bn. The cost of what we have lost is more than N3bn. We have lost track. We have lost locomotives and coaches. We have lost human beings. And the equipment is just N3bn. To fix the damages will cost more than N3bn."

Railways Commission are all trying to make contact with those



**DAILYTRUST**

HOME

NEWS

BUSINESS

POLITICS

PODCAST

VIDEOS

AGRICULTURE

SPORTS

OPINION

EDU

contractor, they are not on the manifest and we may not be able to completely account for them but those on the manifest, calls are being made to reach them.”

On his part, the Commissioner of Internal Security and Home Affairs, Samuel Aruwan said the Kaduna State government had received from the NRC, the detailed passenger manifest.

According to the documents received, he said 398 passengers bought tickets for the trip, but 362 were validated as having boarded the train through the recognised turnstile.

“Investigations are still ongoing to ascertain the status of the passengers who were onboard the train and remain unaccounted for at the time of this update. Search operations are also being sustained,” he said.

Our correspondent gathered from sources at the Kubwa and Idu Train Stations that at least ten dead bodies were evacuated. Besides those killed, the sources said that most of those kidnapped were VIP passengers.

### High profile victims

The Secretary-General of the Trade Union Congress (TUC) of Nigeria, Barrister Musa-Ikwal Ozigi, was among the

passengers killed when terrorists bombed the train.

Chiedu Olaleye, who confirmed the killing of Ozigi, said he was



**DAILYTRUST**

HOME

NEWS

BUSINESS

POLITICS

PODCAST

VIDEOS

AGRICULTURE

SPORTS

OPINION

EDU

According to Olaleye, they were on their way to Kaduna for an official assignment slated for Tuesday, 29 March 2022.

Comrade Ozigi served in the capacity of General Secretary, Construction and Civil Engineering Senior Staff Association (CCESSA), an affiliate of TUC for almost two decades before he joined Congress in 2012.

Comrade Akinsola was a staff of Dangote Flour Mill under OLAM. They were both seasoned Trade Unionists.

“We call on the government at all levels, especially the federal government to rise up to the occasion to stop the killing of innocent Nigerians. As it stands, nowhere is safe now – we cannot travel by air, the road is not safe and neither is the rail. Is Nigeria a failed state? It is unfortunate,” he said.

### **Medical doctor among those killed**

A medical doctor working with Saint Gerald Hospital Kaduna, Dr Chinelo Megafu Nwando was among those killed by bandits when they attacked the Kaduna- bound train.

The Secretary of the Nigerian Medical Association (NMA), Kaduna branch, Dr Aisha Mustapha confirmed the death of

the dentist saying she was to leave for Canada on Friday.

the association was saddened by the death of the doctor

**DAILYTRUST**[HOME](#)[NEWS](#)[BUSINESS](#)[POLITICS](#)[PODCAST](#)[VIDEOS](#)[AGRICULTURE](#)[SPORTS](#)[OPINION](#)[EDU](#)

professional that would be missed.

It was learnt that the late doctor graduated in 2016 from the University of Port Harcourt, Rivers State.

The late medical doctor had shortly after the attack tweeted that she was shot but many commentators took her to the cleaners on the ground that she was lying.

“Her death was shocking, we boarded the same cab from Barnawa in Kaduna South to the train station around 5.30am on Monday,” said a journalist who also travelled with her on the morning train to Abuja.

“She was killed in the evening train on her way back to Abuja. I am really devastated even though it was my first time meeting her,” he said.

Similarly, a director at the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE), Abdu Isa Kofarmata was also killed by the terrorists.

Family sources who described the deceased as an easy-going man said he would be buried by 4 pm yesterday.

A former Deputy Governor of Zamfara State, Alhaji Ibrahim Wakkala, is currently recuperating from a gunshot injury he