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Two die in botched Plateau bombing

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MONDAY, 21 MARCH 2011 00:00 FROM ISA ABDULSALAMI (JOS) AND NJAVARA MUSA (MAIDUGURI) **NEWS - NATIONAL**

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NBA opposes bid to free Boko Haram suspects

NEMESIS caught up with two young men yesterday in Angwan Rukuba in Jos North Local Council of Plateau State when substances suspected to be explosives which they were carrying went off before they could reach their destination, killing them instantly.

The incident occurred as the Borno State chapter of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) said it would not accept the plan to release 76 Boko Haram suspects by the Comptroller of Prisons, Usman Kaina without arraigning them before the court of law for their alleged serial attacks and killing in Borno State.

It was learnt that the two men who were conveying the substances were killed instantly while unsuspecting people sitting in their houses were injured. They have been rushed to the Air Force Military Hospital in Jos for medical attention.

Immediately the explosives went off, irate youths, according to an eyewitness, mounted roadblocks during which a bus was set ablaze in their stop-and-search operation. There was a very loud sound as the explosives went off, followed by thick smoke which forced the neighbouring people out of their houses and the nearby ECWA Church where service was going on.

There were sporadic gunshots into the air by men of the Special Task Force (STF) to disperse the restive youths who had already mobilised themselves, spoiling for violence with dangerous weapons.

It was gathered that two boys were arrested by men of the STF at UTC Junction in Jos while trying to prepare explosives within the vicinity.

Confirming the incident to The Guardian, Plateau State Commissioner of Police, Mr. Abdulrahman Akano said: "Two men on a motorcycle allegedly carrying explosives blew themselves up with their own explosives without having reached where they were going. They died instantly.

"Angered by what happened, the youths at Angwan Rukuba burned the two corpses into ashes. No church was burnt. No institution was torched or affected. There is no proof on ground to show that the explosives were meant for a particular church or institution. The STF and the Police are on hand to restore normalcy and, in fact normalcy has been restored."

Commenting on the incident, a resident of Angwan Rukuba, Emmanuel Sule said what happened served the victims right, as they became victims of their own device when they were killed by their own explosives. As a result of what happened yesterday, the town has become almost deserted.

On night of March 15, six people were killed by unknown assailants when they invaded Kai village in Kurra Falls of Barkin Laid Local Council. The victims were all members of the same family where many heads of cattle were also rustled.

The Vice Chairman of the NBA in Borno, Hussaini Hala who spoke yesterday in Maiduguri on the legal actions the association would take against the prison officials for allegedly contravening Section 22 of the Prison Act, said Kaina, the comptroller of prisons, has no powers or rights to release the suspects without being arraigned in a court of law for their alleged possession of arms, public disturbance and terrorist acts that have claimed over 1,500 lives.

According to him, the prison officials are supposed to remand the suspects in prison and arraign them before the court of law for their alleged terrorist acts and treason against constituted authorities.

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