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Saturday Magazine

Female Suicide Bombers, The New Face Of Terrorism

Saturday, 27 December 2014 00:00

Written by EDITOR Category: Cover Hits: 11



FOR almost all the cases, there are coerced. For most, especially the youths and teens, they are unwilling pawns.

In all, the recruitment and use of female suicide

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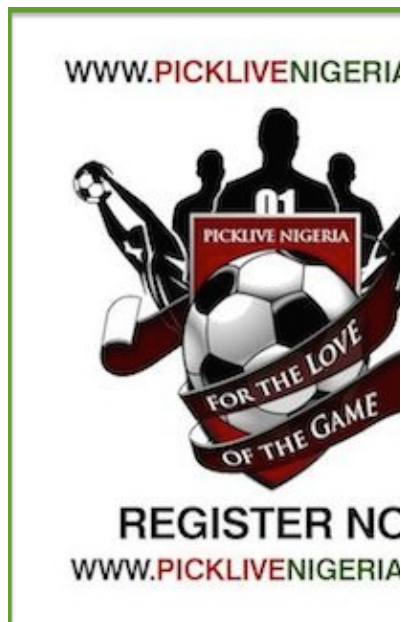
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bombers, including teens, by terrorists is now on the rise and has perhaps come to stay in this period of Boko Haram insurgency in the country.

In parts of the country where the wearing of Hijab by female Islamic adherents is a way of life and culture, it is becoming a difficult menace to tackle. And involving innocent-looking teens has made detecting them and nipping such attacks in the bud more difficult.

Wearing of a long hijab makes conceal explosives hard to detect, and strict Islamic standards make it difficult for law enforcement officers, even females, to thoroughly search female suspects, as some have been reported to resist such searches.

Take the recent case of 13-year-old Zahharau Babangida, who was arrested in a hospital where she sought medical attention from the injuries she sustained after she failed to detonate her deadly belt, like two of her colleagues did at the Kwari Textile Market in Kano two weeks ago.

Looking innocent and inexperienced in the act, she narrated how her father handed her over to suspected Boko Haram terrorists, who indoctrinated her and others to carry out mass murder.

Zahharau spoke to journalists on Wednesday, 14 days after police detained her following the twin blasts at the market that killed six persons, including the bombers, and injured about seven others.

According to Aderale Shinaba, the state Commissioner of Police (CP), Zahharau said she and the other (two) girls were trained in a bush by heavily armed men, who threatened to bury them alive if they rejected to embark on the mission.

She said she and her mother were taken to the location by her father and handed over to people she described as being of different tribes and races, including both black and Arabs.

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Damaturu, Yobe State-born Zahharau said she and her family lived in Kano for years before she was handed over to men in the bush, who constantly preached to her and the other girls about suicide missions.

Earlier, Shinaba said one of Zahharau's guides had been arrested.

That shows how deep the exercise had gone and how labourous it is becoming to apprehend such would-be suicide bombers.

Their advent in the insurgency has put residents of the north, particularly in the terrorism-prone states, on edge more than ever before.

Also, the increasing number of young girls wearing explosive devices concealed in their hijab, who blow themselves up in public places, especially markets, to record more deaths therefrom, is a major concern to the security agencies and counter-terrorism operatives.

In the last eight months, there have been several attacks involving female suicide bombers, a relatively new and worrying development in the fight against insurgency.

The first recorded Boko Haram female suicide bomber was a middle-aged woman who rode a motorcycle into military barracks and blew herself up at a checkpoint in June.

Three other such attacks occurred that month at different locations, recording varying numbers of casualties.

In July, three women suspected to be recruiting young women into suicide bombers were nabbed at different locations by security agents.

A military source disclosed that Boko Haram insurgents have built a "female wing" in its command structure shortly before the arrest of a 10-year-old girl wearing a suicide belt.



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In August, four such suicide bombings were linked to females wearing suicide vests, leading to a cracked down by security agents and apprehension of 16 women at a terrorist training camp.

The lull in such activities that followed the action soon gave way last month and this month, with more such occurrences recorded, especially in Kano.

These include the arrest of a woman attempting to attack the University of Maiduguri in Borno State, who revealed that the Islamist sect had deployed over 50 women throughout the city, with the aim of killing 100,000 by the end of the year.

Last month, two female suicide bombers blew themselves up at a busy and crowded market in Maiduguri, killing about 78 people and leaving many injured.

One of the bombers detonated her explosives at the market, while the second one set off hers when rescuers arrived at the scene to evacuate the death and injured victims.

The rising cases of young female suicide bombers has led to insinuations that some of the kidnapped Chibok schoolgirls might have been enlisted into the mission, especially as the alleged bomber in a July attack at a university in Kano looked like one of them.

In some of the affected areas, drivers and passengers of commercial vehicles are known to have become weary of females wearing long hijab, with some dropping of cabs with such hijab-wearing passengers.

Even at markets, these long hijab attract attention from traders and customers, who keep them at arm's length or avoid them completely.

Indeed the increasing numbers of female suicide bombers this year would certain mean renew intelligence gather for the security agents, who must also require a different approach and strategy



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Timeline Of Boko Haram Attacks In 2014

Saturday, 27 December 2014 00:00

Written by EDITOR Category: Cover Hits: 10



2014 has not been a very good year for Nigeria considering the level tragedies visited on many families especially those in the North East region of the country by Boko Haram terrorists. Below is the list of attacks carried out by the terrorist group:

14 January 2014: At least 31 people killed, over 50 people injured by suicide bombing in Maiduguri, Borno State.

26 January 2014: At least 45 people killed in the village of Kawuri.

11 February 2014: 23 people killed in Konduga.

16 February 2014: Izghe massacre: 106 killed.

25 February 2014: Federal Government College attack, not fewer than 29 teenage boys died at Federal Government College Buni Yadi.

14 March 2014: Attack on the military barracks in



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Maiduguri, nearly 600 detainees freed. The latter were executed when government forces retook control.

14 April 2014: Chibok kidnapping, and 234 female students kidnapped. The Boko Haram militants said it would treat them as slaves as part of the "war booty".

14 April 2014: Abuja bombing: Two bombs explode at a crowded bus station in Abuja, Nigeria, killing at least 90 people and injuring more than 200.

1 May 2014: A car bomb exploded killing at least 19 people and injured at least 60 in the same area of Abuja as the April bomb.

5 May 2014: Gamburu attack: Boko Haram attacked the twin towns of Gamboru and Ngala in Borno State, Nigeria. They started shooting in a busy marketplace, set houses on fire, and gunned down anyone who tried to flee. The death toll of the massacre has been set as high as 336.

13 May 2014: Boko Haram attacked three villages, Menari, Tsangayari and Garawa, killing around 60 people in Menari. Vigilantes fought back, killing over 200 Boko Haram militants.

18 May 2014: Kano: Suicide car bomb kills five people.

20 May 2014: Jos: Twin bomb explosions kill 118 people.

30 May 2014: Assassination of Muslim leader Alhaji Idrissa Timta the Emir of Gwoza in Borno.

1 June 2014: Mubi bombing: An attack at a football field in Mubi, Adamawa kills at least 40 people.

2 June 2014: Militants dressed as soldiers slaughtered at least 200 civilians in three communities in Gwoza.

29 May - June 5: Six attacks, killing 506 civilians, 5

military; 20 women and 3 men abducted. 60 Boko Haram killed by Cameroon's military.

June 6 - June 12: Four attacks, killing 5 civilians, 6 military; military kill 50 Boko Haram.

June 13 - June 19: Two attacks, 46 civilians killed; 8 Boko Haram killed by Borno vigilante group.

June 20 - June 26: Four attacks, 93 civilians killed, 60 abducted. A military fighter jet bombed unknown number of Boko Haram in counterattack; 25 Boko Haram and 16 soldiers killed in attack on military base. Cameroon military killed 10 Boko Haram near border.

June 27 - July 3: 2 attacks, 112 killed.

July 4 - July 10: Four Boko Haram attacks, 11 civilians, one vigilante, 33 soldiers, four police killed. 53 Boko Haram were killed while capturing a military base and police station.

6 July 2014: soldiers killed a Boko Haram kingpin and his brother at their home in Kaduna. In Borno, 44 Boko Haram were killed in 2 military operation.

July 11 - July 17: 4 attacks, 81 civilians killed, many of these shot by fighter jet in a failed counter-attack. German teacher kidnapped and 2 vigilantes killed on July 16 in Adamawa, presumably by Boko Haram.

July 25 - July 27: 2 attacks in Kolofata, Cameroon, including the kidnapping of the wife of the Vice Prime Minister, Amadou Ali, as well as local religious leader and mayor, Seini Boukar-Lamine.

11 August 2014: 28 civilians killed, 97 kidnapped, all men and boys, in attacks on villages in Borno State in rural northeast Nigeria. Many homes torched in the raid.

29 October 2014: Several people were killed after clashes with the armed forces resulted in Boko Haram taking over the second largest city in Adamawa, Mubi. It followed the overrunning of Uba

in Borno. Kukawa local government chairman Modu Musa said that several people were killed especially around the market.

25 November 2014: Suicide bombing in the Maiduguri market by two women killed at least 45 people. Other sources count 78 deaths.

28 November 2014: 120 people were killed in Kano, where a local mosque was bombed by Boko Haram.

1 December 2014: In Damaturu, during a Boko Haram attack, two female suicide bombers detonated bombs at the central Maiduguri market, killing dozens.

3 December 2014: Boko Haram abducted 20 women, mostly young girls, during an attack on Lassa in Borno State.

4 December 2014: Boko Haram raided Bajoga, in Gombe State, occupying buildings briefly before leaving with stolen vehicles and motorbikes.

10 December 2014: Boko Haram raided Gajigana, north of Borno State, killing at least 14 people.

19 December 2014: Suspected Boko Haram members attacked Damagun in Yobe State.

21 December 2014: Members of the Boko Haram insurgents are currently attacking the headquarters of Gaidam local government in Yobe State.

SOURCE: Wikipedia

 0 Comments

Taraba 2015:
PDP INEC
Adopts And The
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torial Candidat e

Saturday, 13

December 2014

00:00

Written by Charles

Akpeji, Jalingo

Category: Cover

Hits: 66

AT last, the wrangling in the Taraba state chapter of the ruling People's Democratic Party (PDP) has been laid to rest following the emergence of the former Minister of State for Niger Delta Affairs, Arc. Darius Dickson Ishaku as the party's governorship candidate for the 2015 polls.

It would be recall that the crisis, which made it impossible for any of the party's primaries to take place in the state on Thursday, compelled the governorship primaries of the state to be shifted to the national secretariat of the party in Abuja where Ishaku finally emerged victorious.

The primaries which took place on yesterday at the party's national headquarters, was said

ent Voters' Card Distributi on

Saturday, 20

December 2014

00:00

Written by Samson

Ezea

Category: Cover

Hits: 28



SINCE the return of democracy in Nigeria in 1999, successive elections have been marred by various electoral irregularities.

Top among these vices is the lack of credible register of voters which desperate politicians have latched upon to rig elections, and grab political power at all cost.

In such registers were strange and pseudo names which some politicians and the INEC connived to insert to aid rigging during elections.