Friday, 27 February 2015









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Suicide bomber kills self, 19 others in Borno

Thursday, 26 February 2015 22:08 Written by Njadvara Musa, Maiduguri

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A suspected bomber yesterday detonated Improvised Explosive Device (IED) strapped round his waist, killing 19 people at a Farm Labourers' Park at about 2.50pm in Borno State.

The blast that rocked Mbulamyel Ward of Biu, also injured seven other people who have been taken to hospital by the rescue teams of Nigerian Red Cross and members of Emergency Volunteer Group.

Biu is second largest town in Borno state; and 187 kilometres south of Maiduguri, the epicenter of insurgency.

According to an eyewitness, Yamtariya Madu, the suicide bomber defied security checks to enter the town at Tashan Gandu general area of Mbulamyel ward, near the NEPA/PHCN office and Ekilisiyar Yan'uwa, a Nigeria (EYN) church, and detonated the explosive, killing over a dozen farm workers.

"The body of the suicide bomber was scattered all over the places, with his head cut off in the blast and some of his mangled legs hanged on the roof of some nearby shops," Madu said.

On how security checks were defied, he said: "I saw when the suicide bomber was driving towards us, and all of a sudden, he detonated the explosive concealed in his flowing gown. Then the whole area was disrupted as many people, including myself, scampered for safety.

We ran towards the blast scene, and only to discover that some parts of the destroyed tricycle went into flames while the suicide bomber died on the spot.

"I also saw seven injured victims lying on ground in the pools of their blood, but I cannot ascertain whether they were dead or alive."

A military source, which was not authorized to speak on the incident,

also told The Guardian yesterday that "Apart from the suicide bomber, whose body was dismembered, 19 people lost their lives in the explosion while over half a dozen others sustained various degrees of injuries in their limbs and heads."

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