

Eight feared killed in Borno mosque blast

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- Presidency faults Dasuki's claim on insurgency
- Community petitions Osinbajo over abducted women

The Borno State Commissioner of Police, Damian Chukwu, yesterday said that a suspected female suicide bomber infiltrated Cimari community in Mafa Local Council of Borno State and killed eight people after detonating an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) at a mosque by 4.30 a.m.

The blast also injured 18 other people that came for the dawn prayers in the community. Chukwu, who disclosed this while briefing journalists on the death toll of twin-blasts in London Ciki and Cimari communities at a news conference in Maiduguri, said that the troops intercepted and foiled two teenage female suicide bombers attempting to infiltrate Mammanti village in Molai general areas of the metropolis.

He said: "Troops intercepted a female suicide bomber trying to infiltrate the community through the parapet ahead. "In the process, she detonated the strapped explosives and killed herself along with eight others while 18 other persons sustained injuries."

Meanwhile, troops of Operation Lafiya Dole of the Nigerian Army yesterday said the Boko Haram terrorists had adopted new tactics to lure unsuspecting members of the public to targeted areas before detonating their IEDs.

A statement signed by Deputy Director, Public Relations and Theatre Command, Col. Onyema Nwachukwu, said the new tactics being used by the terrorists was to create a scene like fighting before detonating their IEDs.

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The army, therefore, warned the public to be wary of these tactics and avoid such unnecessary gatherings that could expose them to preventable danger, adding that all parents and adults are advised to sensitise their children and wards on these new Boko Haram tricks.

Meanwhile, the Presidency has faulted claims by former National Security Adviser (NSA), Col. Sambo Dasuki (rtd), that the Goodluck Jonathan Administration cleared the North-East of terrorists to make elections possible in 2015.

A statement issued by Senior Special Assistant to the President on Media and Publicity, Garba Shehu, dismissed the claims as untrue and “an attempt to deceive Nigerians with blatant lies” in order to rewrite history.

“The claim as contained in a new book by a journalist is just another unfortunate attempt by inglorious Nigerians to rewrite the history of our country in such a way as to cover the sins of the past,” the statement said.

In another development, the elders of Askira/Uba community in Borno State have petitioned the Acting President, Yemi Osinbajo, over the abduction of 14 women by Boko Haram insurgents in an ambush at Abare-Dalwa village along Maiduguri-Dambo Road.

The abduction occurred on Tuesday, June 20, 2017 while conveying the remains of a police sergeant, Rahila Antakirya in a military escort for burial in Lassa. The former Governing Council Chairman of Federal College of Education (Technical), Potikum, Madu Bukar, who spoke with journalists yesterday at a news conference in Maiduguri, said despite formal notification of abduction to police on June, 30, 2017, security agencies were silent on the abducted women.

He said the concerned elders of Askira/Uba Margi community deliberated exhaustively and resolved to write an open letter (petition) of complaint to the Acting President in respect of the abducted 14 women.

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