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Daily Independent (Lagos)

**Nigeria: Four Children, Two Others Killed in Borno Blast**

Abdulkareem Haruna

16 June 2011

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Maiduguri — Hours after a Boko Haram suicide bomber beat Nigeria's security network to bomb the police headquarters in Abuja, another bomb planted by the sect exploded and killed four children and two others in Damboa, Borno State.

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The tense situation had forced the National Youth Service Corp (NYSC) to conduct its passing out ceremony of the 2010 batch B members amid tight security.

An eyewitness who spoke on the telephone from Damboa, about 89 kilometres away from Maiduguri, said the bomb went off in a house close to EYN Church when the innocent children stepped on the explosive device.

"I personally saw the corpse of the four children, and the two others that have been rushed to the clinic for treatment. The bomb must be a big one, because the way it boomed really shook the entire village," said the eyewitness, who identified himself simply as Aji.

Police Public Relations Officer, Lawan Abdullahi, confirmed the incident but claimed that

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three children were killed and one was injured.

He said the police are on top of the situation although no arrest has been made.

Boko Haram had on Monday issued a statement threatening to bring 'the Afghanistan and Somalia experience' to Borno and other parts of the country, including Abuja, to spite the Inspector General of Police Hafiz Ringim, who vowed in Maiduguri to annihilate the sect members "in 10 days."

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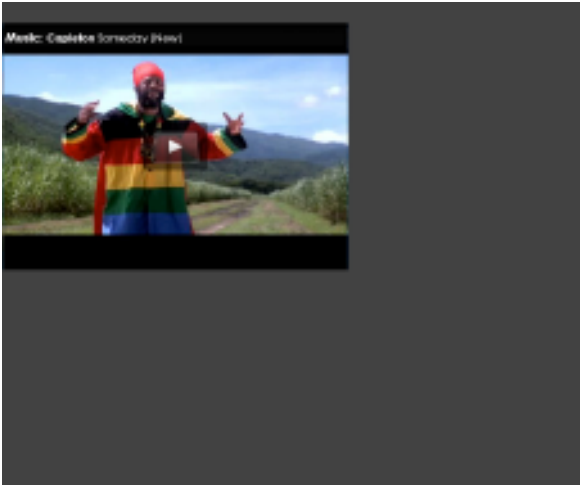
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