

# GUNMEN INVADE SAMBO'S HOME, KILL ONE, INJURE TWO

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•Photo: Acting Assistant Inspector General of Police (Sokoto zonal office), Muktari Ibrahim, making a phone call during an inspection of his office damaged by a suicide bomber ... on Monday. Inset is wreckage of the car used in the operation.

•Suicide bombers hit AIG's office, police station in Sokoto

•Police officer, three others killed

•IG, DIG Fakai relocate to Sokoto

**By Wisdom Patrick (Lagos) and Baba Negedu (Kaduna)**

**Daredevil** gunmen riding on a motorcycle on Monday attacked the Zaria residence of Vice President Namadi Sambo, killing a passerby, and wounding two mobile policemen guarding the house.

The incident, *Daily Independent* gathered took place at about 11.30 a.m.

This happened just as suspected suicide bombers believed to be members of the Islamic sect, Boko Haram, also attacked two police stations in Sokoto metropolis, including the office of Assistant Inspector General (AIG) of Police in the area.

The Zaria gunmen, three in number, were said to have opened fire at the Vice President's residence, killing the victim, identified to be a cobbler, and wounding the two mobile policemen.

Kaduna State acting Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Balteh Abdulrazaq, while reacting to the incident, said, "Yes, there was an attack. But the house was under construction. The policemen were

guarding the house.

"A cobbler was killed by a stray bullet as a result of the exchange of gunfire between the three gunmen and the policemen. The cobbler died while one of the policemen was shot on the leg."

It will be recalled that the Vice President's house, located on Baba Ahmed Road in Tudun-Wada area of Zaria, was razed down during the April 2011 post-election violence and is presently undergoing reconstruction.

An eyewitness said the deceased cobbler was shinning the shoes of one of the policemen attached to the residence when the invaders came.

The witness, who did not want his name in print, said, "The three gunmen who were on the bike stormed the house located at Tudun-Wada area of the city and opened fired at the policemen guarding the house.

"The shoe shiner was actually shinning the shoes belonging to one of the policemen attached to the house.

"They shot at the policemen. They actually got two of them, one on the leg and the other one on the hand.


"The bullet also hit a shoe shiner. I don't think the shoe shiner was their target," the eye witness said.

However, some unconfirmed reports said one of the anti-riot policemen also attacked by the gunmen died at the hospital.

But the police denied this, saying the two policemen were rushed to the Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital (ABUTH), Shika, near Zaria for treatment.

Meanwhile, a team of security operatives comprising the police, State Security Service (SSS) and soldiers have taken over the entire vicinity where the attack took place.

Both human and vehicular movements have been hindered in the area, as efforts are geared up to apprehend the attackers.

In Sokoto, a suicide bomber, driving a bomb-rigged car, attacked the office of the AIG in Marna town, killing a police corporal and wounding several others. 

Another one also bombed Angwar Rogo Police Station in the metropolis.

The attacks, according to eyewitnesses, were targeted at policemen at the zonal office of the Nigeria Police at Marna and the Police Officers' Wives Association (POWA) office at Angwar Rogo.

The suicide bombers were said to have driven in a jeep to the Sokoto Zonal Police Headquarters at about 10.45 am while the Angwar Rogo attack was unleashed by a teenage bomber in a Volkswagen Golf car.

The AIG, Sokoto Zonal Office, Mukhtari Ibrahim, said: "We had an unfortunate incident where a suicide bomber rammed into the headquarters with car and killed himself. A police corporal, by name Ismail,

was also killed and eight other officers were injured.”

Late report on Monday said the Inspector General (IG) of Police, Muhammed Abubakar, and Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG), Suleiman Fakai, have temporarily relocated to Sokoto following the attacks, describing the incident as shameful.

A competent police source confirmed to *Daily Independent* that the IG left Abuja for Sokoto at about 12.00 noon on Monday.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attacks as at press time.

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