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## Suicide bombers, kidnappers on rampage

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**•Kill scores in Maiduguri, Damaturu •Prison official, 60 guard dogs killed in Ekiti jail break •Nurses, LG staff, others abducted in Ekiti, Enugu**

**By Sunny Nwankwo (Maiduguri) and Yaqoub Popoola (Ado-Ekiti) and Emmanuel Nzomiwu (Enugu)**

**Hell** was let loose on Monday as suicide bombers, kidnappers and gunmen had a field day in various parts of the country, leaving in their trail anguish and mayhem.

In Maiduguri no fewer than 12 persons were feared dead at a market when two female suicide bombers who concealed explosives in their bodies walked into the busy area of the market and detonated them.

*Daily Independent* gathered that the first explosion went off when the suicide bomber was subjected to a search at the market gate.

It was learnt that during the search which was a daily routine by the civilian JTF, she resisted and in the process the bomb went off in the midst of people.

Then, it was closely followed by the second bomber who eye- witnesses said attempted to drop the explosive that was carefully concealed in her hijjad dress at one corner where people gathered at the scene of the other explosion before her own exploded.

A civilian JTF who gave his name as Garuba Mohammed and who was at the scene of the incident told our reporter that over 12 persons were killed while many were injured during the blast.

At Maiduguri Specialised hospital, it was observed that many people were seen trying to identify the victims, and also rescue vans were busy taking corpses for deposition at the hospital morque.

It would be recalled that on Tuesday last week, scores were killed at the same market area by two female suicide bombers.

Meanwhile, combined security personnel of police, soldiers and civilian JTF have cordoned off the entire market areas with all the shops within and around the market closed.

And in Yobe State, men of the dreaded Boko Haram sect on Monday morning evaded Damaturu, the state capital.

The insurgents who moved into the town at about 5.30 a.m. from the Gujba axis South East of the town were shooting sporadically and triggering off explosives.

Our correspondent who also ran out of his house in Jerusalem area along with thousands of other residents heard more than five explosions with deafening sound in the air.

Residents of Jerusalem, Malari, bye-pass along Gujba road have all deserted their houses for safety. Others who spoke to our correspondent informed that they were laying flat in their houses praying to God to save them or expecting the worse.

Security sources confirmed that many of the insurgent entered the Yobe State Government House but most of them were killed.

Abdullahi Isa saw the insurgents through his hotel room from the widow as they tried to gain access to the Government House from behind.

The state university also known as Yobe State University was reported to be under attack. The administrative block of the institution had been burnt according to students' witness.

Heavy bombardment is currently going in Damaturu the state capital by a NAF jet fighter.

Residents have remained indoors for fear of being caught up in the crossfire as the air strike and ground troops have engaged the insurgents in a fierce battle.

Also in Ekiti State, dare devil kidnappers invaded the state and abducted four people in the wake of attack.

Three nurses and the Director of Administration, Ado Ekiti Local Government of the state, Tayo Olawuyi, have reportedly been kidnapped by unknown men in the state.

The nurses were reportedly kidnapped by 3 p.m. on Friday while Olawuyi's incident happened last week. Both are yet to be found and their abductors are yet to get in touch with their families.

The abductors who were said to have come in Ash Colour Toyota Camry car immediately drove the victim away in their car.

It was gathered that the five-man gang also drove Olawuyi's official car alongside to an unknown destination.

"Since that day, the family has been trying to call him but the cell phone was switched off.

"In fact, there is confusion everywhere. This is the second time Olawuyi will be kidnapped in three years," our source stated.

He said nobody had been contacted among Olawuyi's family on the need to pay ransom to enhance his freedom.

The source, who confided in journalists on Monday in Ado Ekiti said the nurses, who are members of staff of General Hospital, Ifaki, were travelling to Ido Ekiti after close of work on the fateful day when their abductors pounced on them and took them away in the private vehicle the victims were travelling in.

Olawuyi's kidnap was confirmed by a staff of the LG who pleaded for anonymity.

He said Olawuyi was accosted by the suspected kidnappers at the gate of his house located at Odo Ado area of Ado Ekiti at gunpoint as he was about entering his house.

Efforts to get the spokesman of the Police Public Relations Officer, Victor Babayemi, were unsuccessful as at press time.

Meanwhile, Security Operatives in Ekiti State have commenced moves to unravel the motive behind the attack on Federal Prison, Ado-Ekiti by about 60 gunmen.

The attack which Daily Independent learnt was carried around 10:30 p.m. on Sunday, reportedly killed a prison official on guard, bombed the main gate with the aid of Rocket Propel Launcher and Dynamite, just as they killed all the 20 guard dogs tied in front of the gate.

It was learnt that the assailants arrived the prison located at Afao-Ekiti road in Hilux trucks, brandishing weapons such as cudgels, cutlasses, AK 47 rifles, charms and chanted 'Allahu Akbar' as they shot sporadically into the air.

The source added that the gunshots and the bombing were so deafening to the extent that the inmates had to run in different directions to prevent being mowed down by the gun-wielding assailants.

The source confirmed that the Minister of Interior, Abba Moro, was on his way to Ekiti to assess the situation.

The Comptroller of Prison, Ekiti State, Kehinde Fadipe, who later addressed the press after much agitations from newsmen, confirmed the attack, but denied loss of life during the attack and that Adeniyi Adedipe, was still in their custody.

On those that escaped from prison, the comptroller said his men were already out to re-arrest them.

He said he had no Boko Haram member in the prison to warrant attack from the Islamic sect, saying it would be preposterous to draw conclusion now on where the attack actually came from.

The Comptroller, however, refused to give the figure of those that escaped and those that had returned into the prison on their own.

Also a woman, crying profusely and held by some prison officials on both sides was seen as she was being led into the prison premises, which a source said was the wife of the official that was shot by the suspected Islamic sect.

The Comptroller added that some of the escaped inmates “have been recaptured and kept in police cells.”

Early in the morning, a statement aired on the state radio, had alleged that the action was carried out by APC thugs to free a leader of Oodua People’s Congress, Niyi Adedipe, who was imprisoned on the order of the Court over alleged murder of a former chairman of National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW), Chief Omolafe Aderiye.

However, the APC has blamed Governor Ayodele Fayose for the upsurge in criminal activities in the state, saying his conduct and body language created conditions for crimes to flourish.

Reacting to the early morning gunmen attack on the Prison Taiwo Olatubosun, said Fayose had deliberately created conditions for crimes to thrive.

He listed reduction in the funding of the security services that are responsible for keeping peace and security. This, he said, had lowered the morale among the security agents while it has almost become impossible to service the equipment used by security agents to fight crimes.

Kidnappers have also laid siege on the newly reconstructed Enugu-Ugwugo Nike-Opi Nsukka road, abducting and holding two persons hostage in the past one week.

The kidnappers had launched an assault along the road at the weekend, abducting the president- general of Nsukka Town Union, Chief Augustine Alumona and a professor whose identity is yet to be ascertained as at press time.

It was gathered that a policeman returning from night duty discovered the car Alumona was traveling in along the road and flipped through documents scattered in the

car to get the contact of the wife of the victim identified as Nkiru and immediately contacted her.

A source in Nsukka said the hoodlums have already established contact with the family of Alumona, popularly called Ideke, and are demanding for N10 million ransoms for his release.

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