

# Injured In Borno Explosion

had mobilized to confront the insurgents who were rumoured as planning an attack on the town.

Abbas Gava, a spokesman for the civilian fighters, said Tuesday's deaths were tragic, adding that "this also further heightens our fears of the need for a lot of sweeping to be done by the explosives ordnance department before people are allowed to go back to their liberated homes."

Meanwhile, two women were on Wednesday, allegedly shot dead in Heipang in Barki Ladi Local Government of Plateau State by men of the Special Task Force (STF), deployed to restore law and order in the state.

**\*\*Daily Independent\*\*** gathered that there have been accusations in the past of military involvement in killings in the area, leading to peaceful protests.

Investigation revealed that there

was an attack on the community on Tuesday night, following which a military identity card was discovered by the villagers in the area. This led to another peaceful protest by some women and youth in the community, with the women and youth alleged shouting: "We do not want military check points in our area;" "No to military checks points;" among others exclamations.

Confirming the incident to newsmen on phone, the Chairman of the LGA, Emmanuel Loman, alleged that military men shot two women dead as they protested the incessant attacks and killings in their communities.

According to Loman, there was a disagreement between the protesting women and the soldiers who were mounting checkpoint in the area, "and as the women moved to their shops across the road, a soldier from the STF

met them inside their shop and shot the two women to death at a close range."

He also added that a middle-aged man, who was also beaten to pulp by the soldier, was receiving treatment at an undisclosed hospital in the area.

But in a swift reaction, the spokesman of the STF in Jos, Captain Ikediche Iweha, told newsmen that no woman was killed by his men in the area.

He explained that there was a directive from their headquarters on the need to review check points in the area and that when STF personnel arrived to review the check point, a group of women and youth mobilised themselves and destroyed the checkpoints being put together by the STF.

He added that in the process, there was a gunshot from the crowd which hit two people. "I am not aware of any death, nobody died in the confusion, except two women that were hit in the crowd who sustained injuries and were taken to the hospital for treatment."