

42 Dead, 68 Injured In Adamawa Mosque Twin Blasts

By **Our Correspondents** - May 2, 2018



Forty-two persons died while 68 were injured from Tuesday's twin blasts in Mubi town, a city some 200 kilometres (125 miles) from the Adamawa State capital, Yola, according to residents and rescue workers.

But Adamawa State government said 27 died while 56 were injured.

Ahmad Sajoh, Commissioner of Information and Strategy, made this known in a statement made available to newsmen in Yola.

The twin attacks bore the hallmarks of daredevil Boko Haram insurgents.

The statement said that the 56 injured persons were on admission in hospital.

Sajoh said the blast occurred in Kasuwan Gwanjo (second hand clothes market) and a mosque within the market.

The blasts occurred while worshippers were holding the Zuhr (afternoon) prayer.

"While condemning the satanic, cowardly and dastardly act, His Excellency Sen. Mohammed Umar Jibrilla Bindow, the executive governor of Adamawa State, had ordered the immediate provision of medical supplies and mobilisation of medical officers to the general hospital in Mubi.

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"In addition, the Adamawa State Emergency Management Agency (ADSEMA) had been ordered to supply food and non-food items to the hospital to cater for victims and victims relations."

The statement urged people to donate blood and be more vigilant and reiterated the government's commitment to protection of lives and property of all citizens.

However, Adamawa State police spokesman, Othman Abubakar, said, "For now (the death toll) is 24," but other sources gave far higher figures.

Abubakar, a Superintendent of Police, said the first of the blasts occurred about 1:00p.m.

"While people were evacuating the victims of the first blast, another explosion occurred," according to him.

"As I am talking to you now, 24 persons are confirmed dead. The scene has been cordoned-off by the anti-bomb squad and other security personnel," he said.

The explosion was allegedly triggered by a teenage boy wearing a suicide vest.

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Garba Habu, a Mubi resident, said he counted over eight corpses at the scene.

"A boy of about 18-19 years wearing a suicide vest was said to have entered the mosque along with other worshippers. Immediately after the prayers, he detonated the bomb," he said.

Another resident, Isa Danladi, said he was about to leave his house near the mosque when he heard the blast.

"Many people died on the spot and several others were taken to hospital with severe injuries," he said.

"The mosque's roof was blown off. The prayer was mid-way when the bomber detonated the explosives. This is obviously the work of Boko Haram," he said.

Haruna HammanFuro, head of Adamawa State Emergency Management Agency, described the blast as "devastating", saying there were "high casualties".

"It was a twin-blast and the detail is sketchy but we are in touch with our partners of Red Cross and others that are helping now.

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"For now dead bodies are being evacuated and those injured have been taken to hospitals. Right now we are on our way to Mubi," he said.

Sani Kakale, rescue worker said, "In my presence, 42 dead bodies were taken to hospital and 68 injured."

A source at Mubi General Hospital noted that they received 37 bodies and many injured persons.

Abdullahi Labaran, a resident of Mubi, said the first bomber mingled with worshippers who had gathered for prayers at the mosque at the edge of the market.

He detonated his explosives “five minutes before the prayer started”, he added.

The second bomber blew himself up among the crowds of worshippers, traders and shoppers who fled the mosque towards the butchery section of a nearby market.

Comments

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