

No fewer than fourteen worshippers on Wednesday were killed in early morning suicide bomb attack at Gamboru town in Gamboru-Ngala Local Government Area of Borno.

The incident occurred about 5:00a.m, when a teenage male suicide bomber detonated an improvised explosive device (IED) strapped to his body in a mosque at Gamboru, killing also his father, who was among the worshippers.

"Fourteen bodies have been pulled out of the rubble," said Umar Kachalla, a member of the Civilian JTF, who said the mosque had been completely destroyed.

"Only the muezzin has survived and we believe more bodies are buried under the debris," said Kachalla. "The death toll may likely rise."

However, Lawan Abba, a resident of Gamboru, said only 10 persons were killed and six others sustained in-

Teenage Suicide Bomber Kills Father, 13 Others In Borno Mosque

juries in the attack.

Abba disclosed that the suicide bomber sneaked into a crowded mosque while people gathered to observe Morning Prayer and detonated the explosive.

He revealed that the teenage suicide bomber hailed from Gamboru town, adding that the father to the assailant was among the 10 persons, who lost their lives in the attack.

"The suicide bomber hailed from Gamboru town, he disowned his parents and joined the insurgents in the bush.

"He entered the mosque blew up himself into pieces and killed 10 persons including his biological father," he said.

Abba added that the wounded persons were referred to the clinic in the internally displaced persons (IDPs) camp in the area for treatment.

Ali Mustapha, an aid

worker, said the suicide bomber killed 11 people in the attack.

The bomber hit the mosque during morning prayers, said Mustapha.

"I was on my way to morning prayer; then I heard the sound of a loud bomb explosion inside the mosque," Mustapha said.

"The mosque was destroyed and burnt," he said. "After some hours, when we came for evacuation of the people, we saw 11 corpses, with the suicide bomber making (the total number of dead) 12."

Maj.-Gen. Rogers Nicholas, the Theatre Commander, Operation Lafiya Dole, confirmed the attack in Maiduguri.

Nicholas, however, said only five persons were killed in the attack.

He added that the troops had also neutralised a suicide bomber at Rann, headquarters of Kala-Balge Lo-

cal Government Area.

"Yes, but only five (people) were killed and another suicide bomber neutralised in Rann".

An hour earlier, a patrol of vigilantes spotted four suspected suicide bombers on the outskirts of Gamboru town and arrested one of them after a chase, Shehu Mada, another member of Civilian JTF

"Two of them turned back and fled while the fourth disappeared into the darkness and we believe it was he who attacked the mosque," Mada said.

On Tuesday, Abubakar Shekau, Boko Haram leader, in a video message mocked the Nigerian army over its claim that it has defeated the Islamist Boko Haram group.

Shekau, who in the video claimed a series of attacks in North Eastern states of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe during the festive

season, had said, "We are in good health and nothing has happened to us.

"Nigerian troops, police and those creating mischief against us can't do anything against us, and you will gain nothing."

President Muhammadu Buhari in his New Year broadcast had said that "we have since beaten Boko Haram."

He noted that "isolated attacks still occur, but even the best-policed countries cannot prevent determined criminals from committing terrible acts of terror".

Four Children Die In Zamfara Fire

The Department of Fire Service in Zamfara on Wednesday confirmed the death of four children in a fire outbreak that occurred at Awala Filin-Jirgi in Gusau metropolis in the state.

Abdullahi Jibo, Deputy

Director, Fire Prevention and Public Enlightenment, made the confirmation in an interview with newsmen in Gusau.

Jibo said that the house affected by the fire belonged to a driver attached to the Government House, Gusau.

He said that four children, comprising two boys and two girls, lost their lives in the incident which occurred on Tuesday night.

"We received distress calls from the area on the fire around 10.00p.m.

"Before we got to the place, the fire had already taken over the house; we exhausted four water tankers to control the disaster," the fire officer said.

Jibo, who said that the fire might have been caused by power surge, urged residents in the state to always comply with safety guidelines, to forestall a recurrence of such outbreak.