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Suicide Bombers Kill Six In Maiduguri, As Boko Haram Attacks Yobe Village

At least six persons were yesterday confirmed dead after a group of suicide bombers attacked a checkpoint manned by local vigilante at the outskirts of Maiduguri, Borno State capital, on Saturday, witnesses and security sources said.

The incident occurred in Balle village, a short distance from Giwa barrack, one of the major military formations in Maiduguri.

This was also followed by an attack by suspected Boko Haram terrorists on the Yobe town of Babbangida, headquarters of Tarmuwa local government, which is about 50 km away from the state capital.

According to security sources in Maiduguri, three persons riding on a motorcycle, rode up to a checkpoint where members of the Vigilante Group of Nigeria (VGN) and the Civilian-JTF were manning a checkpoint and suddenly blew themselves and three of the unsuspecting members of the volunteer security forces.

Abbas Gava, a spokesman of the VGN in Borno state confirmed to

Journalists that; "three of our members were killed alongside the three Boko Haram suicide bombers".

According to him; "report that ~~got to us this morning (Sunday)~~ indicate that the three suicide attackers came riding on a motorcycle to the checkpoint in Balle, not far from the Giwa barracks. They pretended as if they were friendly and were exchanging pleasantries with our men, and when they saw that some of them were close enough, they detonated the explosive killing themselves and three of our people.

Meanwhile, in Yobe state, fleeing residents said the village was to be attacked on Saturday, being its market day, but was eventually thwarted by security forces who mobilized to protect the traders.

The terrorists had to remobilize and attacked Babangida in the early hours of Sunday at about 6:40am.

"As we were hiding in bushes like many other residents in the early hours of today (Sunday) we then heard several gunshots around the troubled Babbangida town, confirming our earlier's apprehensions and not quite long we saw thick smoke around the town. This is a strong signal that houses and other structures were being burnt", said one Babayo Musa, a resident.

It was also feared that the terrorists might have tampered with the telecommunication installation in the area, as most of the fleeing resident stranded in the bushes could not make calls during the attack.

Security forces in Yobe state have not officially confirmed the attack neither did any comment on the extent of damage.

By Kareem Haruna, Maiduguri