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Leadership (Abuja)

Nigeria: Zaria Explosion Kills Three

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BY MIDAT JOSEPH AND ALIYU YUSUF, 1 OCTOBER 2012

A bomb factory allegedly belonging to the

members of the Jama'atu Ahlis Sunnah Lidda'awati WalJihad also known as Boko Haram, yesterday, exploded killing three of its members in Zaria area of Kaduna state.

The house located at Emir road, Gaskiya new layout, was used to manufacture Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs).

LEADERSHIP gathered that the blast occurred when soldiers of the Joint Task Force (JTF) stormed some buildings in the area inhabited by suspected members of the Boko Haram sect.



Photo: Leadership

A security source pointed out that during the JTF operation, the leader of the group identified as Sheik Hussaini Mohammed, took to his heels leaving behind his wife and some other members of the sect.

Further investigations revealed that the security operatives raided the house following intelligence gathered that the suspected sect members who escaped from the recent jail break in Bauchi state, were regrouping in Zaria to launch attacks on Zaria, Kaduna and Suleja.

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LEADERSHIP further learnt that the operatives on their arrival in the early hours of Sunday, evacuated all members of the neighbouring households to safer places before engaging the suspected sect members in a gun battle

About five houses and 10 cars were completely destroyed during the explosion.

LEADERSHIP also gathered that the building was used as a warehouse for storage of IEDs.

An eye witness told LEADERSHIP that the suspected member was from Bauchi and took up tenancy with his wife and two vounger brothers as well as a motor mechanic from Abuia

The Army Public Relations Officer, Depot Nigerian Army, Captain Ibrahim Abdullahi, confirmed the incident in a press release issued to journalists in Zaria

Abdullahi said, "In the early hours of Sunday, suspected members of the Boko Haram engaged our troops and the State Security Service (SSS) in a fierce gun battle in Gaskiya layout, Tukur-Tukur, Zaria, following a tip off that Boko Haram are planning a major suicide mission in Zaria, Kaduna and Suleja to coincide with the independence anniversary celebrations.

"A joint operation was launched on a residential building in Gaskiya layout to flush out the terrorists.

During the course of the operation, some of the Boko Haram members were killed and others, including a woman were arrested.

"It was also discovered that the building was heavily loaded with explosives and was used as a warehouse for storage of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs)," he said.

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1 sur 2 09/10/12 17:14 He added that the explosives were meant to inflict maximum casualty on the army troop.

The APRO noted that a controlled detonation was carried out by Army Engineers so as to save other law abiding residents of the area and to stop further planning and execution of the nefarious, destructive, criminal and deadly activities of the sect.

He assured that investigations were still ongoing on the matter to determine the extent of involvement of the apprehended people.

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