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[Yusuf Alli, Jide Babalola, Sanni Ologun and Dele Anofi, Abuja](#)

01/01/2011 02:53:00

TWO explosions Friday rocked Mogadishu Cantonment in Abuja,



A victim of the New Year eve bomb blast in Abuja Friday with sympathisers helping ... Friday.

leaving no fewer than 10 people dead and 30 others severely injured.

The news of the second explosion reached us a little after 11pm, but by press time,

information concerning it was still very sketchy.

The tragic incident on the eve of the New Year left parents, friends and associates confused as they searched desperately for their missing ones last night.

The Nation investigation revealed that the bomb blast occurred at the Mammy Market of the cantonment, which is situated at the left side of the entry point to the barracks, around 6.30 pm..

It was learnt that the explosions occurred as the market and its many rendezvous joints opened for the New Year eve celebrations.

It was also gathered that the explosions occurred separately at the pepper soup and drinking joints that dotted the market.

A man, Adamu Suleiman, who had a narrow escape, said: "I went to the Mammy Market between 6.30pm and 7pm to buy some provisions, but suddenly I heard a deafening noise, which threw me and the owner of the shop off balance.

"Initially, we thought that a transformer had blown off. But when we saw a huge ball of fire and a lot of people scampering to safety, we had to jump a nearby fence to secure a good position."

A serving Warrant Officer, who spoke in confidence, said: "Many soldiers in mufti were seriously wounded. As I am talking to you, I cannot find my son whom I learnt might have been trapped there. We do not know the motive of the perpetrators of these dastardly acts."

As at press time, the market had been cordoned off by the Nigerian Army and most of the victims were evacuated to the Defence Headquarters Medical Centre in the cantonment, Asokoro Hospital and other medical centres in the city.

The Chief of Defence Staff, Air Marshall Oluseyi Petirin, confirmed the explosions. Oluseyi, who was at the scene of the explosions for on-the-spot assessment and rescue operation, said: "It is unfortunate that these people planted bombs where people were relaxing. This shows that there are some devilish people moving about to cause crises.

"But as I have said, it is a matter of time, these people will be caught. What we need to do now is to be very, very vigilant. Wherever we are, we should not allow anybody to leave bags, because this is a new kind of crime. These devilish people take undue advantage to plant bombs without people suspecting."

Asked to be specific on the casualty figures, he merely added: "I cannot say now, because they are still cleaning up."

As the nation was trying to recover from the blast at the Mogadishu Cantonment, there were rumours of another explosion at the Dunamis International Gospel Centre, Jikwoyi on the outskirts of Abuja.

The Force Public Relations Officer Olusola Amore, however, said it was not true that there was another bomb attack at the church.

He confirmed the incident at the cantonment, saying only four persons, comprising three females and one male, died.

Amore added that 13 persons, including seven males and six females, were injured in the blast.

Apart from policemen who were seen diverting traffic at the Federal Secretariat, the National Mosque and the junction near the Thisday Dome last night, others were sighted at major roads patrolling on foot in twos and threes.

When he was contacted, the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Police spokesman, Jimoh Moshood, said the incident took place at about 7.30 pm. He, however, said it was too early to give the casualty figures because many people were affected.

Moshood said the Anti-Terrorism and Bomb Squad was already at the scene and had commenced investigation.

He said other police investigators had been sent to Jikwoyi to ascertain the true situation of things.

In its immediate reaction, the Atiku Campaign Organisation said its principal, ex-Vice-President Atiku Abubakar, was sad about the incident.

In a statement via text message, the ACO said: "Atiku denounces the increasing bombing incidents as senseless and wicked. He sympathises with innocent military and civilian victims caught in these incidents.

"Atiku holds the view that the latest bomb targeted at a military establishment is an indication that President Goodluck Jonathan cannot provide the type of leadership to secure the situation."

However, a presidential aide, Bolaji Adebisi, said Atiku's comments were "an unfortunate politicisation of a major national security challenge. Mr. President is doing his best in the circumstances to tackle this global phenomenon of terrorism that has berthed on the shores of Nigeria.

"What we need is a national coalition behind the President against this act of terror against our country, and not a descent to cheap political leveraging."

There were indications yesterday that President Goodluck Jonathan had ordered immediate beefing up of security at strategic places and institutions in the FCT. The President also met with the Minister of the FCT, Senator Bala Mohammed, on the latest explosions in Abuja.

It was learnt that security chiefs might have briefed the President on the explosions.

The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) evacuated some of the dead victims to the mortuary last night.

Investigation by The Nation revealed that upon the President's arrival from Benin Republic last night, he took immediate charge of the situation.

A source said: "The President has received preliminary situation report and the evacuation situation so far. He has ordered that lives, strategic places and institutions in the FCT be fully protected. As such, more policemen have been deployed in the Three Arms Zone and other parts of the city."

The FCT minister, Senator Bala Mohammed, last night condemned the bomb explosions.

A statement by the Minister's Special Assistant (Media), Nosike Ogbuenyi, added: "The minister has been summoned to the Presidential Villa for a meeting with President Goodluck Jonathan."

Following the blasts at the barracks, a combined team of Police and Federal Road Safety Corps officials cordoned off the roads leading to and from the Federal Secretariat, the Three Arms Zone and the Presidential Villa.

According to a top Army officer involved in the rescue operation, between 10 and 11 deaths were recorded at the cantonment.

He said: "I can tell you that I was able to count about 10 to 11 dead persons, but many people were injured.

"Out of the dead, NEMA has just taken five corpses to a mortuary in the city. I think a pregnant woman was among the dead."

At Asokoro General Hospital, an official confirmed that although 18 people were brought, only four had died on the way.

On its part, NEMA through its Head of Public Relations Unit, Alhaji Yushau Shuaib, was silent on the actual number of dead people it evacuated.

The agency said: "The NEMA team, led by its Director-General, Mohammed Sani Sidi, mobilised response agencies for immediate evacuation of victims of the bomb blasts in Mogadishu Barracks to mortuaries and hospitals.

"The evacuation was successfully and timely carried out through joint efforts by stakeholders."

Reacting to the incident yesterday, the Catholic Archbishop of Abuja, Rt. Rev. John Onaiyekan,

said: "It is a pity that this nature and scope of terrorist activity is happening. Everyone is more or less a target as this development generates anxiety."

Comments (95 posted):

GARBA SURAJU on 01/01/2011 03:16:52



Atiku at it again, this your violent change is really destroying people's lives, and innocent people for that matter.

You are causing instability so you could create a scene that the present government lack the political will to ensure security of lives and properties of ordinary Nigerians.

Let me tell you, your sins will find you out.

Remember, he who kills by the gun will surely die by the gun.



14

John Effiong on 01/01/2011 03:43:46



Bombings are another form of terrorism. It is an ugly phenomenon in the world today which must be tackled by every responsible government, groups and individuals. However, it should be used as a political tool against opponents.

Who knows the next victim as it seems nobody is safe anywhere, everywhere in the world. I know God will surely expose the perpetrators of these evil acts. I join millions of Nigerians worldwide to console the president, Goodluck Jonathan, and the bereaved families. May the souls of the victims rest in perfect peace.



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Com Famakinwa A on 01/01/2011 03:47:44

From the comment of Atiku this morning he should be as a matter of urgency be held responsible for bomb blast at Abuja and the military should prosecute him now. Ah! how i wish Obasanjo can come back as the President of Nigeria at this present time. If i am mr president i know what to do now. SSS and other security chiefs are you people so coward and sleeping? you people are too weak and dull. Pls come and employ me now. I am tired of this foolishness.



10

Ojeiu Ejere on 01/01/2011 03:56:23

This whole issue of bomb explosions and terrorism is taking a very sad dimension. The security agencies just have to be alive to their responsibility and put a stop to this new form of madness before things get out of hand.



3

right on 01/01/2011 04:12:52

What i shappening in this our only country?



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sani on 01/01/2011 04:29:23

May God saves nigeria



2

OLOSUN on 01/01/2011 04:39:24

It's Finished! I have said it earlier that Gej tenure may likely be a replica of Abacha regime now its happening. This man cannot control this nation it is very obvious.If barracks is bombed where is haven? Next is Aso ROck God forbid. If you really love this man advise him to leave when the ovation is loudest otherwise he will be disgraced out of presidential villa. Once an ethnic group rejects you in this country you're finished what's left is struggling.Take precedence from Abacha and Babangida even Obasanjo. GEJ am not sure you're national candidate as you claimed .Its either you settle yourself within your adversaries or resign enough of these calamities that befall innocent people everyday. You never start ruling What's going to happen when PDP and our INEC rig you in.Nigeria will become Palestine or Iraq. In fact you lack action,wisdom and everything it takes to rule this nation but truth is bitter.



-11

Idara on 01/01/2011 04:53:53

When did we become a nation of insensitive humans? When did we start to set of bombs killing innocent women and children,like the terrorists we read about? This is NIGERIA, land of good people, land of investment opportunities, we say, well the investors will not come till security is beefed up and changes happen. I hope 2011 bring us the kind of leadership that will stop these dastardly acts and build this nation.



-3

SAM on 01/01/2011 05:21:53

I pray that God Almighty will save this Nigeria from the hands of these heartless and 'do or die' politicians. May the Lord grant the dead victims eternal rest.
HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL NIGERIANS.



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chi on 01/01/2011 05:29:39



Why will Atiku keep making this kind of statement? Is he part of them.

I sympathise with Nigerians who lost loved ones in these blasts. We must begin to pray real hard for these evil men and their sponsors to be fished out. Everyone knows that the country's system is too chaotic for now to easily track people's movement. Whether GEJ, or anybody else is president does not matter. We need to rise up collectively and put politics aside.



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ABU on 01/01/2011 05:33:04



THE COMMENTS OF ATIKU ABUBAKAR ON THE INCIDENT WAS BASELESS.



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Muhammad on 01/01/2011 05:34:49



Its very unfortunate that something of this nature is happening to us in Nigeria....its very sadening...i cannot immaging a country blessed with all good things of life to catter for her citizen and some bunch of IDIOT believe its their birth right to live comfrotably while other with the same right die in hunger, this

situation was ingnited by the so called FOOLISH,STUPID,SENCELSS and IGNORANT SO CALLED LEADERS without vision for good except embezlement and evil acts, A VERY BIG SHAME ON YOU STUPID LEADERS!see how you waist lives of inocent and law abiding fellow Nigerians? may you also never have peace in both worlds... let me ask you what do you gain in puting us to suffer? in the midst of abundant? with no justifyable reason?...you will also suffer in fear till you change for good and turn to God almighty, because if you think of life after death never in your lives will inflict hardship on us...stupid Goats.....



1

Dr Chris Opone on 01/01/2011 05:52:01



Comments by the ACO is most insensitive and resort to blackmail and scoring cheap political points wouldn't fetch him (Atiku) the presidency. We are talking about loss of human lives here, and the least any rational being could do is to show basic remorse and sensitivity.

Maybe the ACO knows more about these bombings!



4

ige on 01/01/2011 05:55:54



Insecurity, high level of unemployment, poor education policy, poor road networks etc., and pdp with mr gej the president pls go will dont need you and your people destroy people party



-2

[ige](#) on 01/01/2011 05:57:08



Insecurity, high level of unemployment, poor education policy, poor road networks etc., and pdp with mr gej the president pls go will dont need you and your people destroy people party



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Meritas on 01/01/2011 06:27:12



Na wa Ooh! These criminals have evolved from the use of arms, kidnapping and issuing threats to bombs. God save Nigeria. I wonder what will happen if there is chaos in this country. the refugee problem alone will be catastrophic. Government, please prevention is better than cure.



O

ese on 01/01/2011 07:00:47



Wel, am not suprised this is hapening. the northerners including atiku had earlier said that the would make this country ungovernable. Atiku, u know wat is going on.



4

ese on 01/01/2011 07:01:05



Wel, am not suprised this is hapening. the northerners including atiku had earlier said that the would make this country ungovernable. Atiku, u know wat is going on.



4

moro on 01/01/2011 07:21:26

terrorism on our shores! yesterday it was jos, then bayelsa, now abuja again, who knows were the next one will be. the military in jos have been joking with the bomb blasts in jos, now that it is affecting them directly,i guess no body will sleep any more.

but wait a minute, did i read abt a second blast in a church. but why churches? their has been circulation of threats against bombing churches in jos, this gives me a feeling some people are trying to provoke a religious war in the country! church of God,brace up! the times of persecution jesus spoke about is here with us. the difining moment for christianity is here, true and fake christians will show their character.i empoly us all to reconcile with our maker, and be ready to die even for the sake of christ! the perpertrators should not coerce us into fear of worshipping our God. soon God will take care of them in his own way,becos i dont think our security agency have any solution to this problem. we must look up to God!bottom line, some group of terrorist sponsored by the so-called "untouchables" is trying to make the country look ungovernable, just for selfish aim.GOD'S judgement will catch up with them for the innocent bllod shed!



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bee on 01/01/2011 07:27:56

a church bombed!what has christians in this country done to these terrorists!



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