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11 killed in Maiduguri explosions

By [Joseph Abiodun](#) 10 hours 29 minutes ago

No fewer than **11** persons were **killed** yesterday in multiple blasts in **Maiduguri**, the Borno State capital.

Police Commissioner Mohammed Abubakar said Boko Haram members detonated bombs at two police stations - Gwange Police Divisional Headquarters and that of Dandal - and St. Patrick's Church in Maiduguri.

He said 10 people died in the **explosions**, including three suspected members of the sect and a soldier.

It was gathered that the **explosions** occurred shortly after Governor Hashim Shettima addressed the House of Assembly; inspected the Baga Motor Park road network; and visited the Musa Usman state secretariat, near St Patrick's Church.

Eyewitnesses said some Boko Haram members invaded Gwange Police Station and detonated some explosives there.

They reportedly engaged the policemen in a gun battle after the **explosions**.

The blasts occurred a day after motorcycle-mounted gunmen shot dead Sheik Ibrahim Birkuti, a cleric from a rival sect. The police blamed Boko Haram for Birkuti's killing on Monday at his home in Biu, south of **Maiduguri**.

Birkuti had been critical of Boko Haram's violence and belonged to the Wahabbi group, a splinter faction of Sunni Muslims.

AP reports that Boko Haram is also a splinter group of Sunni Muslims pushing for the implementation of Shariah law in Borno. However, Wahabbi has done so through peaceful means, but Boko Haram insist killing people believed to be pro-establishment until Shariah law is adopted alongside its other demands.

Boko Haram is responsible for the killings of police officers, soldiers, politicians and clerics in the North over the last year.

Its members have also attacked churches and engineered a massive prison break. But the authorities have said the attacks which intensified after April 26 governorship election kept the same political party in power.

Governor Kashim Shettima reached out to the sect to calm tension by offering an amnesty, but a man, claiming to speak for the group, told the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) last month that it was rejecting the offer.

In a separate and more recent interview with BBC Hausa service, a man claiming to speak for Boko Haram claimed responsibility for the three blasts that rocked two cities in the North and a town close to the capital hours after the inauguration of President Goodluck Jonathan.

The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) said 18 people died in the May 29 attacks.