

Boko Haram kills four policemen in Yobe attacks

Suspect linked to UN House bombing

Continued from page 1

arrest, *The Nation* learnt.

A source said the screening of Konduga's call logs has provided fresh clues on the bombing of the UN House and the Police Headquarters.

The August 26 explosion at the UN House killed 23 people; 70 others were injured.

The SSS arrested Babagana Ismail Kwaljima (a.k.a Abu Summaya) and Babagana Mali (a.k.a Bulama) over the UN House attack. It declared a Boko Haram leader, Mamman Nur, wanted.

But the fresh clues indicate that more suspects were involved in the "plot".

A source, who pleaded not to be named said more suspects are being sought, following the clues.

"At the end of the day, the SSS will

From Duku Joel, Damaturu

ensure a successful *Jihad* on the "enemies of Islam" promising that no innocent person would be harmed during the offensive that lasted three hours.

There are conflicting facts as to the number of casualties in the attack. Two people are also believed to have been killed.

Yobe State Secretary of the

determine whether Konduga will still stand trial separately for the two incidents. But we have recorded a breakthrough," the source said, adding:

"In fact, prior to the bombings, there were telephone calls between Konduga and some highly-placed people. The facts suggest that Konduga has been a key member of the Boko Haram sect, contrary to insinuations in some quarters."

On Ndume's fate, the source said: "Instead of reading political meaning into it, those aggrieved should be at the court to go through security reports on him. These will be tendered in court."

"There is no basis for political witch-hunt. We have arraigned him in court; he remains a suspect. The onus is on him to prove beyond reasonable doubt before the court that he had no link with Konduga.

Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) Mr Peter Ogwuche said: "I am able to gather from various church members that fled the town to Damaturu, the state capital, this morning (yesterday) that about five churches were destroyed, so far".

Another eyewitness said no policeman was seen on the street throughout the period of the at-

tack until around 9pm when some soldiers who were deployed from Damaturu later showed up in the town at the time the sect members had left.

A young man, who pleaded for anonymity, said his mother's home and shop located opposite the Magistrate's Court, Geidam was among the shops burnt by the attackers. "I place a call to

We cannot pronounce him guilty."

The source said: "We cannot join issues with any party but we have security reports on Ndume. We have his statement on oath and the Presidency was in the picture of our findings.

"We won't stoop so low to release the security reports, but the court is there for all to go and witness the trial, based on our findings and counter-deposition by the Senator."

Ndume's family, it was learnt, had wanted to take up issues with the SSS on Friday at a news conference, but the session was called off at the instance of the Senator.

Another source said: "Nigerians should ask Ndume why he asked his family to shelve the Friday briefing. He must have had some information which they do not have."

my mum only to hear a man answering the call and warning me never to call that line again. That signalled to me that my mum might be in trouble. I later learnt that they managed to escape and by now they should be on their way out of the town".

Another source simply identified as Fatima, who spoke to our correspondent on the tele-



• The late Ojukwu

phone, said by yesterday morning, "virtually all the Christians, especially the Igbo, were leaving the town in large numbers; some on foot. The town is upside down".

Police Commissioner Suleimon Lawal's phone kept ringing without response. It was learnt that the CP had accompanied the DIG 'B' in charge of Operation, Alhaji Audu Abubakar Karasuwa, to Geidam to see things for himself.

The Geidam attack is the second major onslaught of the Boko Haram in Yobe State. Three weeks ago, the sect's members launched co-ordinated attacks that claimed well over 65 persons' lives.