

# Policeman dead in Jos explosion

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26/12/2011 00:24:00

Another blast occurred in Jos, the restive capital of Plateau State yesterday. A policeman was killed and part of the premises of a church was burnt.

This is in spite of the series of meetings held before the Christmas celebrations and the numerous promises by residents of the state to give peace a chance during the Christmas celebration.

Spokesperson of the Special Task Force (STF) code named Operation Safe Haven, Captain Charles Ekeocha, and Police spokesman Samuel Dabai, confirmed the death of the policeman. He was shot on the head by the hoodlums.

They said: "There was a blast this morning at the Mountain of Fire (MFM) church. A policeman on duty there was shot on the head by the hoodlums before they planted the explosives in the church".

The Policeman, whose name and rank have not been released was rushed to the hospital, where he died.

The duo said two vehicles were affected and part of the church's fence damaged, adding that four suspects were arrested and four unexpended explosives were picked from the blast site.

However, one of the worshippers at the church, Mr. Benard Ugeh, said the church service had ended before the incident occurred.

He said people whom he suspected came from Rikkos, an area very close to the church were shooting at the few worshippers who were on their way out of the church. He said: "Had it been they met us during the church service, the casualty would have been high".

Besides the attack, Jos has witnessed a low profile celebration as many churches held few hours of services. Most residents stayed away from the streets.

However, the affected church was among the list of possible target areas given last week by the State Police Commissioner, Emmanuel Dipo Ayeni, who said the Command got an intelligence report on places likely to be attacked during the Yuletide.

It will be recalled that bombs exploded simultaneously at Kabong and Angwan Rukuba areas of the city on December 24, 2010.

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