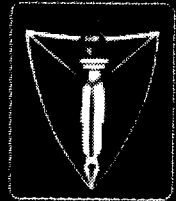


**News** Ibadan traders count losses in Bola Ige market fire **P58**

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# THE NATION

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TRUTH IN DEFENCE OF FREEDOM

N150.00

## Suicide bombers kill eight in attacks on media houses



•SCENE OF HORROR: The ThisDay press hall which the SUV rammed into...yesterday

- *ThisDay, The Sun* offices in Abuja, Kaduna hit by bombers
- Jonathan, U.S., NPAN, NGE, NLC, others condemn bombings
- We did it, says Boko Haram

SEE ALSO  
PAGES 5,6, 8,9,  
10, 60,63 & 64



•One of the victims, a 12-year-old boy at the National Hospital...yesterday

PHOTOS: ABAYOMI FAYESE

**CHARLES TAYLOR GUILTY OF WAR CRIMES, SAYS ICC • P54**

## SUICIDE ATTACKS ON MEDIA HOUSES

## Suicide bombers kill eight in attacks on media houses

*ThisDay: we won't be deterred*

**T**HISDAY issued a statement last night on the attacks. The statement, signed by Managing Director Eniola Bello, entitled: "Simultaneous attack on ThisDay Abuja, Kaduna offices...an attack on journalism and free speech", reads: "At about 11:05 am today, a suicide bomber drove an SUV into the premises of our Abuja office, rammed his vehicle into the building housing our printing presses, igniting a massive explosion and fuelling speculations it was a suicide bomber. About the same time, our Abuja office was under siege, the building housing our office, along with two other newspapers in Kaduna, came under another bomb attack. "In Abuja, we can confirm the death of our security man, by name Christopher Sadiq. Three passers-by and the suicide bomber also died. Eight of our staff, who

From Yusuf Alli, Sanni Onogu and Gbenga Adanikin, Abuja

smashed seats and crushed computers.

All the glasses in the building, including doors, were shattered. Parts of the roof were blown off with no ceiling left hanging.

The premises was strewn with pieces of shrapnel from

sustained injuries, are receiving treatment at the National Hospital. The roof of the building was blown off, the power generator burnt, the printing plant damaged. "We regard the coordinated bombings as an attack on journalism and free speech. However, we want to assure our readers and advertisers that we remain committed to the fundamental principles on which the newspaper is founded: democracy, free enterprise and social justice. We will not be deterred in our pursuit of truth and reason. No amount of threat or intimidation will weaken our resolve. "While thanking all the government agencies, particularly Fire Service, VIO and FRSC, that rallied to put the situation under control and restore normalcy, we urge the security agencies to thoroughly investigate the obviously co-ordinated attacks and fish out the masterminds."

the bomb laden vehicle and broken glasses.

A crater, which must have resulted from the impact of the blast, was seen about two meters from where the SUV was lodged. Parts of the wall of the building from where the car entered the premises caved in.

The huge loss drew tears

*How our office was bombed, by The Sun*

**T**HE Sun, in a statement last night by its Managing Director/Editor-in-Chief Tony Onyima, said: "At about 11:30 am today, Thursday, April 26, 2012, an explosion occurred at the premises of our North West Zonal headquarters in Kaduna, Kaduna State. "The property located along Kontagora Road equally houses the state offices of two other media organisations, namely THISDAY newspaper and The Moment newspaper. "The explosion occurred when a suspected suicide bomber, driving a gold colour Honda Academy, with registration number AL 306 MKA rammed into the building. "However, the bomb-laden vehicle failed to explode on impact with the building. But when the driver of the car jumped out and began to shout that there were bombs inside the vehicle and that they would explode any moment, angry residents and onlookers seized him and forced him to begin to dispose of the bombs. In the process, one of them exploded, killing three people and injuring several others. "The angry youths then turned on the driver, and would have lynched him, but for the timely intervention of the policemen who had by then been invited to the scene by our North West Bureau Chief. "Although there were casualties, no staff of The Sun died or suffered any physical injury. "The police and other security agencies have since moved in to investigate the matter. The security operatives have also taken custody of the driver and suspected suicide bomber. "Despite this seeming set back, The Sun Publishing Limited, remains undeterred and refuses to be intimidated in its quest for a better and safer Nigeria. We will continue to report without fear or favour and with utmost sense of responsibility and patriotism."

ernment.

"This is a war between us and the government of Nigeria," the website quoted a sect spokesman as saying. "Unfortunately the media have not been objective and fair in their report of the ongoing war. They chose to take sides."

A journalist with long-standing ties to the sect told the AP that the statement came from the group. The journalist spoke on condition of anonymity over concerns about his safety.

The sect's spokesman particularly blamed ThisDay for publishing stories the group found inaccurate.

A probe of the incident has started, with two foreign bomb experts visiting the scene in an unmarked Ford Expedition Sport Utility Vehicle.

Some samples of the wreckage were retrieved for forensic analysis.

A source spoke of how the

Continued on page 60

## OUR ERROR

Oyo State Ministry of Lands, Housing and Survey advert published in The Nation newspaper of Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2012, page 53, with Advertisement No. 12 of 2011 was published in Error. It was to read Advertisement No. 5 of 2012.

