

Emir escapes death as suicide bomber kills orderly

By [Duku Joel](#) 04/08/2012 01:13:00



Emir of Fika, Yobe State

Attempt by a suicide bomber to blow up the Emir of Fika, Yobe State Dr. Muhammadu Abali Ibn Muhammadu Idrissa, failed yesterday after worshippers and the emir's orderly pushed the terrorist away from his target.

The suspect was, however, killed as the explosive he

strapped to his body went off.

The jumat prayers had just ended and worshippers, including the emir were dispersing, when the suicide bomber said to be in his 40s started running in the direction of the traditional ruler.

His conduct immediately aroused suspicion and as he advanced towards the emir, the worshippers formed a cordon round the traditional ruler while the orderly made to push him away.

As he fell to the ground, the explosive went off ripping him apart.

The state Police Commissioner, Mr. Patrick Egbuniwe confirmed the incident.

He said: "Apart from the bomber who was blown into pieces, three policemen and two civilians were wounded but no death was recorded."

An eye witness said: "During our Friday prayers at the Central Mosque located in front of the Emir's Palace here in Potiskum, we sighted a man sitting near the Emir's car and he was asked to relocate.

"Immediately after the prayers, the same person was sighted rushing towards the Emir, the Emir's Police orderly quickly pushed him away. The bomb exploded tearing the policeman's arm and injuring dozens of people," he said.

"I saw the body of the suicide bomber torn apart. He wore a yellow gown with a cap and sandals."

Another witness said: "A man who looked in his 40s approached the Emir and tried to embrace him, but people around pushed him away and at that moment, a bomb concealed under his caftan went off."

There was no immediate claim of responsibility. Potiskum has been hard hit by violence blamed on Boko Haram.

"My brother and I were leaving the mosque through a different gate when I heard an explosion followed by a commotion as worshippers tried to flee," another resident said.

“I fled the mosque, but some minutes later when the news of what happened spread, I came back to the mosque and I saw a large crowd watching the dismembered body of the attacker.”

A similar attack was carried out three weeks ago in Maiduguri with the Shehu of Borno, Alhaji Umar Garbai el-Kanemi, as the main target. He too escaped death in that attack.

The injured were all rushed to the emergency unit of General Hospital, Potiskum for treatment.

Security checks have been intensified in the town by soldiers and policemen.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility, though Potiskum has been hard hit by violence blamed on Boko Haram.

On Wednesday, Boko Haram claimed responsibility for suicide blasts at two police posts in the country's Northwest and a separate attack at a home belonging to Vice President Namadi Sambo.

Twin bombings on Monday in Sokoto, the historic seat of Islam in the country, killed two people and wounded 30 others. The bombers also died in the blasts.

Gunmen had fired on Sambo's home in the northern town of Zaria on Monday. One civilian was killed in the assault.

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