

to the injured. He also ordered tight security around the city. Jonathan visited some of the

num... of people, we condole with our countrymen and women. We will continue to

ple will become observant and all of us become security con-

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SOURCE: NEMA

TOTAL

124

71

Boko Haram kills over 150, injures 164 in Abuja

Morgues overwhelmed after explosion at motor park

AFTER a long while, suicide bombers made yesterday a bloody return to Abuja, striking in a packed motor park on the outskirts of the city.

The insurgent group, Boko Haram, is suspected to have carried out the attack in which 150 people died. The police said 71 died, 124 injured.

But last night Minister of Health Prof. Onyebuchi Chukwu released an official figures of horror.

He said 72 people died, 164 injured.

Most of the victims were workers, artisans and unemployed people trying to board cheap SURE-P buses early in the morning.

About 40 vehicles were burnt during the blast, including 16 luxury buses and 24 other commercial vehicles. At the scene were women's handbags, shoes and other personal effects.

Eight mortuaries were filled to the brim. Hospitals were pleading for blood donation to save lives.

British High Commissioner to Nigerian Andrew Pocock led other officials of the High Commission to the national blood transfusion centre in Abuja to donate blood for the treatment of the victims. Many Nigerians also donated blood.

Some of the clinics are National Hospital, Maitama General

GOVERNMENT hospitals in Abuja were overwhelmed yesterday by the sheer number of casualties from the blast.

An official of the Federal Ministry of Health who claimed to have visited all the general hospitals in Abuja said 124 persons were affected by the blast.

He said 71 persons had been confirmed dead as at 11.00am.

Fifteen bodies wrapped in black body bags were counted at the Wuse General Hospital.

Chief Medical Director Dr. Obiora Chibundu told Interior Minister Abba Moro that 58 casualties were rushed to the hospital, 38 of them men.

Senate Committee on Power Chairman Philip Aduda and Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) Commandant-General Ade Abolurin were also at the hospital.

Dr. Chibundu said while one victim had been treated and discharged, 11 others were stable but still undergoing treat-

From Yusuf Alli, Abuja

Hospital, Garki Hospital, Asokoro General Hospital, Wuse, General Hospital and Nyanya General Hospital.

National Security Adviser Col. Sambo Dasuki held an emergency meeting with the Service Chiefs.

Although a preliminary probe of the incident by all security agencies was in progress as at

From Gbade Ogunwale, Sanni Onogu, Vincent Ikuomola, Gbenga Omokhunu, Faith Yahaya, Grace Obike and Franca Ochigbo, Abuja

ment.

He added that doctors were attending to other critically injured victims in the theatre.

The hospital's mortuary could not accommodate 15 bodies. They were left lying in the sun at the premises.

Chibundu said the situation was the same at Maitama, Asokoro and the National Hospital.

An official of the Federal Ministry of Health said Garki General Hospital would take the bodies.

Chibundu said the hospital ambulances had been placed on standby to transfer the bodies to the alternative mortuary.

One of the victims on admission at the hospital, Mr. Cosmas Uguanyi, said he was on queue to board one of the buses

press time, it was learnt that the body of one of the suspected suicide bombers had been deposited at the Wuse General Hospital.

The incident happened between 6.30am and 6.55am at a bus terminal in Nyanya where a teeming crowd of commuters had converged to catch buses to work.

It was gathered that the blast

went off while some of the commuters had boarded about 10 of the luxury buses and others were scrambling for seats in 20 commercial vehicles.

The blast created a two feet deep, ten feet wide crater and threw objects as far as 200 metres.

A top security officer, who pleaded not to be named because he is not allowed to talk

when the blast took place.

Besides a major cut to Uguanyi's head, which was already stitched and bandaged, he said the loud explosions affected his ears.

Another victim, Mr. Nuhu Abdullahi, whose left hand and two legs were badly injured, said he was in a hurry to go to his workplace when the incident happened.

Moro told our correspondent that the perpetrators would be brought to book.

He said: "It is only unfortunate that at this time of nation building, this is happening as a setback to the whole process."

"Our primary duty now is to take care of the living and preserve those who have died rather than counting figures."

"The dead will be sent to the various morgues as arrangements are being made on that."

Security was heavy in and around the Wuse General Hospital.

Policemen were diverting vehicles from the road leading to the hospital.

to the media, said: "From preliminary findings, a Golf car, XQ 229LSD, was parked near the buses where commuters had converged."

"Report indicated that five insurgents came out of the car, pretending to be waiting to join a bus."

"But these insurgents had barely alighted when the remote controlled bomb went off."

FIGURES OF HORROR

72 • Number of the dead

164 • Number of the injured

• Official figures released last night by Minister of Health Prof. Onyebuchi Chukwu

"As a matter of fact, one of the suicide bombers was killed and his body was deposited at Wuse General Hospital. We saw all manner of charms or amulets on his chest."

Another source said: "We learnt the Golf car rammed into the buses in what appeared a clear case of suicide mission."

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CORRECTION

The rider to our lead story in yesterday's edition should read **Governors grumble as President's wife backs aspirants in Abia, Bayelsa, Delta, Bauchi, Kwara, Akwa Ibom, Rivers.**

ADVERT HOTLINES

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