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One killed in Damaturu gas explosion

Posted By: Joel Duku on: August 24, 2016 In: News Update No Comments

A welder was Wednesday morning killed and a soldier critically wounded in an accidental explosion that occurred at a welder's shop close to the central roundabout along Potiskum road in Damaturu, Yobe State capital.

One petrol hawker close to the scene of the explosion was also wounded in the process according to an eyewitness, Ibrahim Imman.

Ibrahim disclosed that the welder's body was shattered from the heated pipe which also hit the soldier who was monitoring the work.

Another eyewitness Adamu Haruna who hawks close to the scene of the incident said the soldier may not make it to the hospital.

"I saw the soldier on the ground. All his intestine were outside his stomach, but he was very brave, still holding unto life. Only Allah will save him at the hospital", Haruna said as he shook his head and left. Spokesman of 127 Taskforce Brigade Lt. George Okupe confirmed the incident to The Nation on phone in Damaturu.

According to him, "troops from Goniri in Yobe State brought a pipe to be welded to increase the height of the antenna on one of their hilux car to the welder and the unfortunate incident occurred in the process of the job."

He said that the accident occurred at about 10.30 am at the shop of the welder, adding that, "one of our soldiers was wounded in the accidental explosion with one civilian. Both have been taken to the Gen. Sani Abacha Specialist Hospital Damaturu".

Speaking on the cause of the explosion, Lt. Okupe dismissed claims of any link of the explosion to Boko Haram but said "we are waiting for the Police Explosive Ordinance Device(EOD) investigation to know the true cause of the explosion".

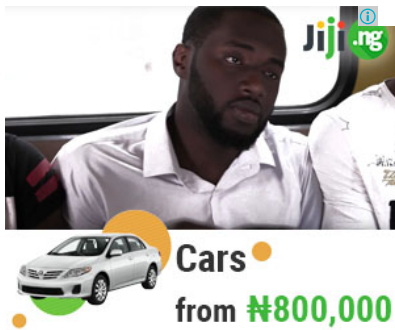
He called on the people of Yobe State, especially Damaturu residents not to panic as the army are equip enough to provide adequate protection for everyone.

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