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Borno bomb blast: Death toll now 51, 100 hospitalised

Written by James Bwala-Maiduguri | Thursday, 16 January 2014 00:00 | font size | Print | Email

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Death toll from the bomb blast that rocked Maiduguri, the Borno State capital on Tuesday, was put at 51 according to sources at Specialists hospital, Nursing Home and University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital where over 100 persons are receiving treatment as a result of the blast.

While residents of Maiduguri are calling on Governor Kashim Shettima and Senator Ali Modu Sheriff to sheathe their swords for peace to reign in the state, there are, however, suspicions that the blast may not be from the dreaded Islamist Boko Haram sect but an act of arson.

However, in a BBC Hausa service monitored by Nigerian Tribune on Wednesday, it was revealed that the fresh explosion which erupted in the heart of Maiduguri on Tuesday and killed many people was the handiwork of the Boko Haram leader, Abubakar Shekau.

But the chairman, SAS campaign organisation in Borno State, Mallam Bako Bunu, said in a statement made available to newsmen that the fact that Sheriff's property at the old UTC was also targeted after the blast, was a clear indication that the former governor was the prime target.

This is even as Nigerian Tribune observed that the campaign offices of Governor Shettima and that of his predecessor, Ali Modu Sheriff, which came under attack by the mob after the blast remained sealed on Wednesday by security operatives to prevent further breakdown of law and order.

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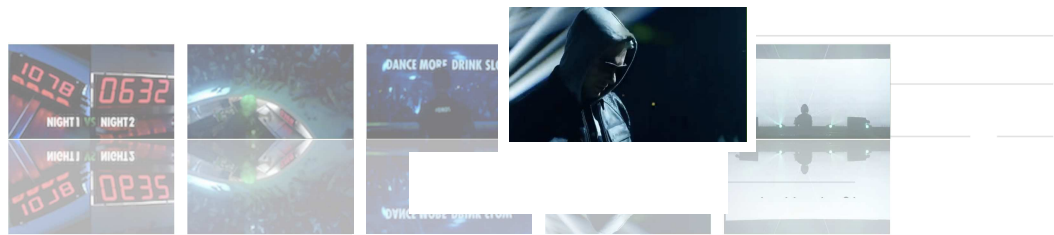
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Bunu insisted that the fact that there had been no bomb incident in Maiduguri for the past 11 months until the former governor visited, also gives the impression that the sustained opposition against his visit was a calculated move to stop him.

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