

Widow of the Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Professor Babatunde Osotimehin, Olufunke (right) and the children, during the day of tribute in honour of Professor Osotimehin, at Professor Theophilus Ogunlesi Event Centre, University College Hospital (UCH), Ibadan, Oyo State, on Wednesday. PHOTO D'Toyin.

## One insurgent killed in Maiduguri multiple explosions Army intercepts 37 wives, children of Boko Haram members

THE Nigerian Army, on Wednesday, said one suspected Boko Haram suicide bomber died in Tuesday's night multiple explosions in Maiduguri, Borno State.

A statement signed by Brigadier General Sani Kukasheka, the Director, Army Public Relations, and issued in Maiduguri, the state capital, said the suspected insurgent was killed at Dalayazare village.

"Troops of 251 Battalion, 7 Division Nigerian Army on Operation Lafiya Dole deployed at Dalayazare village on Tuesday, at about 10 p.m. intercepted a suspected suicide bomber who attempted to cross through their forward defences.

"Upon several challenges and warning shots the suspect refused to halt; the suspect who still continued

to approach towards the troop's location was immediately neutralised.

"The Borno State Emergency Management Agency and the International Committee of the Red Cross have since been contacted to evacuate the suspect's remains," Kukasheka said.

Also, the Army said, on Wednesday, that it had intercepted 37 people suspected to be wives and children of Boko Haram terrorists after they escaped from the insurgents' custody.

A statement issued by Usman, said 30 of the escapees were intercepted on Tuesday at Gujba Local Government Area of Yobe State.

Usman, a Brigadier General, said they comprised eight women and 22 children.

"On preliminary investigation, the suspects claimed to have escaped from Boko Haram terrorists' custody at Kafa and Abagajiri villages in Damboa Local Government Area of Borno State," he said.

The army spokesman said the other seven persons that included women and children were intercepted on Tuesday at Kamuya in Yobe State.

"They claimed that they escaped from Boko Haram terrorists' hideout at Goropcha village, Damboa Local Government Area of Borno State.

"Both sets of escapees are currently being screened and profiled," he said.

In a related development, the Army said its troops in Borno State had intercepted and neutralised no fewer than four suspected suicide bombers between Sunday and Tuesday.

Usman said in a statement on Wednesday that one of the bombers was intercepted at Dala as he attempted to cross through troops' "forward defences."

"Upon several challenges and warning shots, the suspect refused to halt.

"The suspect who still continued to approach towards the troops' location was immediately neutralised," Usman said.

He added that two female suicide bombers were also intercepted and neutralised at Mammanti as they tried to infiltrate and attack the village through troops' paracet.

"Similarly, the troops of 251 Battalion also intercepted another female Boko Haram terrorist suicide bomber on Monday, July 17, at about 1.49 a.m between Cimari and No Man's Land.

"These great efforts of the troops helped to save valuable lives and property," he said.

The army spokesman appealed to the public to volunteer information to the military and other security agencies to preempt suicide bombings and other atrocities by remnants of Boko Haram terrorists.

## Renewed Kaduna killings worry Osinbajo

LEON USIGBE-ABUJA

ACTING President Yemi Osinbajo has expressed concern over the renewed outbreak of violence in Kaduna, which led to the death of many people in Kajuru, Kajuru Local Government Area of the state.

He has consequently ordered further security reinforcements in the state.

A statement issued by his spokesman, Laolu Akande, in Abuja, on Wednesday,

said Osinbajo condemned the act of violence in strong terms, noting that the security challenges in Southern Kaduna, which had led to the needless deaths was a source of concern for the Federal Government and, indeed, all well-meaning Nigerians.

Osinbajo commiserated with families of the victims, the government and people of Kaduna State and wished the injured victims speedy recovery.

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