

Kerosene explosion razes building in Bayelsa

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A residential building was razed by fire in the early hours of Saturday on Arietalin Street, Yenagoa, Bayelsa State capital.

The cause of the inferno could not be immediately ascertained but sources alleged kerosene explosion triggered the fire.

A resident in the area, who gave his name only as Peretu, said a kerosene stove exploded and ignited the fire.

Peretu said, "We just saw fire coming from the kitchen of one of the houses. Maybe one of the people living in the

Boko Haram joins ISIS, kills 58 in Borno bombings

FIDELIS SORIWEI and
KAYODE IDOWU

BOKO Haram has pledged allegiance to Islamic State, according to an audio statement.

The message, which could not immediately be verified, was posted on Boko Haram's Twitter account and appeared to be by the group's leader, the *British Broadcasting Corporation* reported.

Boko Haram began a military campaign to impose Islamic rule in northern Nigeria

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in 2009. The conflict has since spread to neighbouring states.

It would be the latest in a series of groups to swear allegiance to IS.

Meanwhile, about 50 persons were killed on Saturday in Maiduguri, the Borno State capital when bombs were detonated at two markets and a motorpark in the city.

The bomb incidents also left about 100 persons injured

and several cars destroyed.

A member of the youth vigilance group in the state who does not want his name in print told our correspondent on the telephone that deaths were recorded at all the three spots attacked.

He lamented that of the three locations, Baga recorded the highest casualty figure with 36 deaths and over 70 persons injured.

He said, "This is perhaps one of the worst days in the history of this insurgency as it seems the terrorist group

carefully selected centres of with high human traffic in Maiduguri. The worse of the attack was at the Baga market where 36 persons were killed and over 70 injured. At the Monday market, 12 persons were killed and over 20 injured and at the Borno Express bus terminus, two persons were killed and 10 persons injured."

The spokesman of the youth vigilance group, Mr. Jubrin Gunda, who said suicide bombers were the masterminds of the blasts,

could however not confirm if they were executed by females or males.

According to him, the incidents occurred between 11am and 12pm on Saturday.

Meanwhile, the Borno State Governor, Mr. Kashim Shettima, had to cut short his campaign trip to Marama in Hawul Local Government Area of the state when he was informed of the attacks.

The governor was also to launch the Food for All Initiative programme in the council area.

Our correspondent gathered that Shettima did not depart the venue until he called on Imam and a pastor

