



PM NEWS

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Girls' Kidnap Causes Tension In Ojo Barracks

The Nigerian Army on Wednesday beefed up security at the Ojo Cantonment, Lagos, after a two-year old daughter of a Lieutenant Colonel was allegedly abducted by suspected kidnapers on Tuesday afternoon from the fort.

An investigation by the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reveals that immediately the kidnapping was discovered on Tuesday, all entries and exits from the sprawling cantonment were shut with stern looking armed soldiers preventing movement.

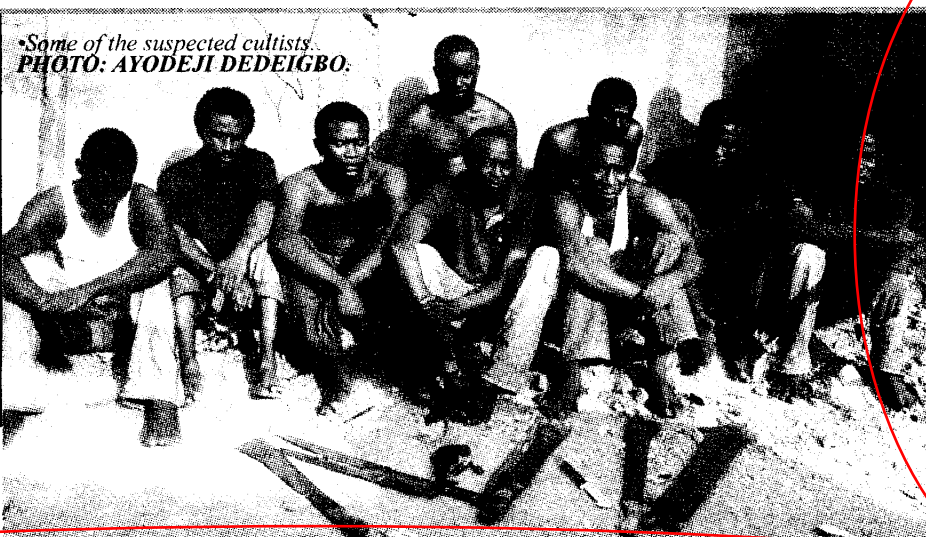
A resident of the Ojo Cantonment told NAN that Tuesday's kidnapping would be the second abduction at the barracks within a month, as another two-

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Cultists Arrested With Arms In Ketu

AYODEJI DEDEIGBO & OMOLADE OLAIFA
For disturbing the peace in Lagos, eleven suspected members of the Buccaneer Confraternity have been arrested by men of the state

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4 Cops Quizzed Over DPO's Death

Seven persons, including four policemen are under interrogation over the killing of the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) of Uratta Police Station, Aba, Abia, Mr. Celestine Ozuruora.

Mr. Bala Hassan, the commissioner of police, confirmed

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KADUNA BOMB

Igbo Traders Count Losses

•Fight Terrorists Now, Says Oritsejafor
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•Scene of the blast in Kaduna



FEMI ADI/Kaduna
After yesterday's bomb blast that killed 14 persons and injured several others at Ogbomoso, by Katsina Road, Kaduna, Kaduna State, Northwest Nigeria, the survivors have started counting their losses.

The bomb blast, according to witnesses was carried out by two suspected bombers alleged to be members of the dreaded

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Igbo Traders

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Islamic sect, Boko Haram. P.M.NEWS gathered that the suspected bombers were on a motorcycle when they threw a bag containing devices suspected to be bomb into a shop.

Immediately, a heavy explosion

Cultists

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anti-robbery squad, Lagos State Command.

The suspects who are from various higher institutions in the country were arrested at Ketu and Agiliti, Mile 12, Lagos after a clash with members of another cult group, Eiye confraternity.

During the fighting which disrupted commercial activities in Ketu and Mile 12, dangerous weapons like cutlasses, pistol, knives and others were freely used by the suspected cultists.

The suspects, it was learnt, vandalised properties in the area before they were subdued by policemen.

All of them are from various higher institutions, including Moshood Abiola Polytechnic, Abeokuta; Igbinidion University, Edo State; Osun State Polytechnic, Iree; Ondo State Polytechnic, Tai Solarin University of Education, Ikenna and Lagos State University, Ojo.

SARS identified the suspects as Ayebusiwa Tosin, 25; Ibrahim Ahmed, 27; Seun Bilogun, 16; Olatunji Yusuf, 27; Adewale Adeboye, 25; Korde Kazeem, 35; Agunbiade Lateef, 25; Badejo Niyi, 28; Ekan Ganiu, 27; Joseph Omuwiyi, 25 and an unidentified student.

The two cult groups, investigations revealed, clashed at Ketu and later moved to Agiliti area in Mile 12 where they continued fighting.

Items recovered from them

DPO's Death

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to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) by phone in Abuja on Wednesday that some people had been arrested over the DPO's death.

He declined to comment on the number of arrests, saying that he was "indisposed" to provide further detail on the matter.

Meanwhile, a senior police officer, on condition of anonymity, told NAN that four policemen had been detained alongside three other persons.

He said that Ozuorua was shot dead by unknown assailants while he was visiting policemen on patrol.

The source said that the case had been transferred with suspects to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) homicide section, Umuahia, for prosecution.

Girls' Kidnap

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year old daughter of a Major, who was forcefully taken away from her parents' home in the barracks four weeks ago, had not been found.

NAN learnt that the armed abductors on Tuesday left a trail of blood, implying that one of the assailants or the victim must have been injured during the incident.

Residents of the large cantonment, NAN learnt, are now suspecting that they could be living with ritualists or have the criminals breaching barracks security at will, to perpetrate such dastardly acts.

As at 1.40 p.m. on Wednesday, the little girl had not been found, either dead or alive, NAN reports authoritatively.

Meanwhile, the army Public Relations Officer at 81 Division, Lagos, Lieutenant Colonel Kayode Ogunsanya, has confirmed the incident to NAN.

Ogunsanya also added that a number of suspects had been arrested in connection with kidnappings at the Ojo Cantonment.

plosion rocked the area, pulling down the targeted shop.

All the four apprentice spare parts traders inside the shop were killed instantly.

The state Commissioner of Police, Ballah Narasawa, however, disagreed with this account of the incident. He told newsmen at the scene of the blast that it was caused by a gas explosion.

include one locally made pistol, two live cartridges, knives and 11 cutlasses.

One of the suspects, Ayebusiwa Tosin, who described himself as an OND holder from the Ondo State Polytechnic (formerly Rufus Giwa Polytechnic), confirmed that those arrested were members of the Buccaneer confraternity.

"We are not armed robbers, we are members of the Buccaneer Confraternity. We were arrested during a clash with members of the Eiye Confraternity," Tosin, who was identified as the leader of the group stated in his statement to the police.

Another suspect, Seun Bilogun, dissociated himself from the group, saying that he was arrested in his house at Ijero Street, Agiliti while cooking by policemen from SARS.

Sources at the Ikeja-based crime squad disclosed that the suspects would be charged to court after conclusion of investigation.

When P.M.NEWS visited the scene this morning, the survivors and witnesses insisted that it was a bomb blast. They stated that the traders in the area do not sell gas but deal in motor spare parts.

One of the survivors, Fabian Ugochukwu lost three colleagues to the explosion, his boss and two apprentices.

He expressed displeasure over the police report that the blast was caused by gas explosion.

Ugochukwu said: "How can it be gas explosion when the entire Ori Apata area vibrated and over 14 people were killed over 100 metres away from the scene."

Another survivor who is the Chairman of Ogbomoso Road Traders Association, Sunday Mba, told P.M.NEWS that not less than N200 million worth of property was destroyed and cash worth N20 million burnt. These records, Mba said, were gathered from survivors yesterday and this morning.

Mba also confirmed that 12 spare parts traders and two other tenants residing in houses behind the affected shops were killed in the blast.

A shop apprentice, Abdul Malik Ayodele wept as he narrated how his boss was killed in the fire that erupted following the blast.

Ayodele said: "I have no

other means of survival. My boss is dead. I lost four other friends who died in the explosion. It is only God that will punish the bombers."

One of the traders who lost about N10 million in spare parts to the explosion, Sunday Azubogwu, a dealer in Mercedes Benz spare parts said he was lucky to escape the blast.

"Though I lost more than N10 million in goods which I received on credit from a spare parts distributor two days before the incident, I have reasons to thank God for my life," Azubogwu said.

He lamented what he de-

scribed as unnecessary attack on Igbo traders in Kaduna, adding, "even when the state government decides to compensate all those who lost their goods and friends in the bomb blast, the traders within Ori Apata can never be psychologically stable because we saw our brothers burnt to death and there was nothing we could do."

Though Kazeem Kazeem and his younger brother, Sulaiman Ibrahim, reside behind the Igbo traders shop along Ogbomoso Road, about 20 metres away from the scene of the blast, they expressed shock at the attack on the traders.

They lamented that they lost a brother and a sister who were trapped inside the fire at their residence close to the traders' shops.

Another victim who simply identified himself as Ifeanyi, younger brother of Onyebuchi, whose shop was directly attacked, said he was sent on an errand by his late brother when he heard the bang.

Ifeanyi narrated that he had spare parts worth nothing less than N15 million because he was dealing in Mercedes Benz spare parts. All the goods and the shop were completely destroyed.

Army Bans Use Of Own Stickers On All Vehicles

KAZEEM UGBODAGA

As part of measures to check crime in the state, the Commander of the Army Brigade, Ikeja, Lagos, Brigadier-General Nasiru Muazu has banned the use of army sticker of any form in all vehicles in the state while the police, represented by the deputy Commissioner of Police in charge of operations, Mr. Tunde Sobulo, assured residents of its readiness to tackle lawless commercial motorcyclists, a.k.a. Okada riders who are protesting

government clampdown on their operations.

The security chiefs disclosed this yesterday during an emergency security council meeting chaired by Governor Babatunde Fashola.

Muazu said the decision to ban the use of army stickers in all vehicles was as a result of the security challenges facing the country and the rising cases of impersonation.

"Anybody caught will face the law, including our personnel and family members. Nobody is allowed to use any form of Army sticker anywhere anymore. I want to appeal to residents of Lagos who still have it on their cars to remove them," he said.

The army chief also disclosed that a joint operation involving the police and other security agencies last week ended led to the arrest of 20 criminals from their hideouts in Ikorodu. He said the operation is a continuous one that will cover the whole state.

Muazu warned that Lagos

would not provide haven for criminals and that the choice such criminals have is either to relocate or abandon criminality as a way of life. The Brigade Commander urged all law abiding residents to go about their normal businesses. "We are here to provide security cover for everyone. We will provide the necessary security for them especially at this time when Christmas and New Year celebrations are just by the corner," he stated.

In his own remarks, deputy Commissioner of Police in charge of Operations, Mr. Tunde Sobulo said the police were ready to fight lawless Okada riders in the state.

"All the army commanders are partnering with us on this matter, even our men from the barracks have been lectured on the issue of riding against one way, riding without crash helmets, carrying more than one passenger and riding Okada on the highway. It is forbidden to ride Okada on the expressroads.

Fight Terrorists Now, Says Oritsejafor

The President of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Ayo Oritsejafor, has called on the Federal Government to muster needed political will and deal with

the growing trend of terrorism in the country.

Oritsejafor made the call while reacting to the latest explosion in Kaduna on Wednesday where at least six persons were reported dead.

He said that government should fish out perpetrators of the deadly activities in parts of the country and bring them to book to serve as deterrent to others.

"Except, we make scapegoat of these people, we will continue to move in circles and watch our economy go down in tatters.

"We cannot continue like this and expect that manna will fall from heaven. We must make deliberate effort to make Project Nigeria work," the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) quotes him as saying.

The CAN President urged the police authorities to get to the bottom of the explosion to allay the fear of every Nigerian. He said that the security operatives should rise above religious, ethnic and other primordial sentiments to demonstrate their avowed neutrality to prove that they were not part of a grand design by a clique, bent on destabilising the nation.

"I have continued to urge the elite in the North to ensure that the regime of uncertainty is put behind us so that the country can forge ahead to harness its huge potential for the benefit of the generations yet unborn," Oritsejafor said.



L-R: Oloye Lekan Alabi, Akinwunmi Isola and Sir Chief Alex Akinyele at the 5th D.O. Fagunwa Memorial lecture in Lagos, recently. PHOTO: ABEEB OGUNBADEJO.

American Fleeces Fellow Americans After Being Duped By Nigerians

To hear him tell it, Scott Stuart was a true believer.

Millions of dollars were waiting for him in Nigeria, at least in his mind. He just needed to get a little money to the men holding it, and their money would be his.

Caught up in their fraud, the Blaine man launched his own. By the end of it, he'd swindled \$3.8 million out of dozens of people.

"I know that I can never again try to get the \$45 million that I believed I was owed by the Nigerians," Stuart said in a letter to the court. "I also now realize that I was misled and lied to for 10 years and that I wasted 10 years of my life and my family's life."

Federal prosecutors in Seattle will be offering a different take on Stuart's activities Friday, when they are expected to ask that the 51-year-old father of two -- who pleaded guilty -- be sentenced to seven years in prison.

Rather than pay the non-existent Nigerian moneymen -- whose torrent of alluringly desperate emails pour into inboxes the world over -- Stuart kept nearly all of the money he got through the fraud, Assistant U.S. Attorney Kathryn Warma told the court.

"Scott Stuart devoted seven years to manipulating, exploiting and defrauding dozens of people, in a scheme that yielded him personal profits approaching \$4 million," Warma told the court.

While Stuart sent small payments to the "Nigerians" to maintain his claim that he believed in the scheme, he pocketed more than 90 percent of the money he raked in, Warma

told the court.

Stuart and his family lived on the money, some of which went to his drug and gambling habits. Ever the optimist, Stuart and his wife dropped \$2.3 million into slot machines at the Silver Reef Casino over four years. The betting cost them, or Stuart's victims, \$89,300.

Stuart had been wrapped up in the Nigerian scheme as early as 2001, when Secret Service agents investigated him for soliciting money from others to make a down payment on a multi-million-dollar "inheritance" purportedly awaiting him in Nigeria. To that end, Stuart cashed two forged checks totaling \$255,000, and received a visit from the Secret Service for his trouble.

Charges were never filed after Stuart promised to stop drawing others into the Nigerian free-money scam. Any remorse Stuart felt at the time, though, appears to have been short-lived.

Having already been told by federal investigators that he would never see any money from the obvious, well-known scam, Stuart spent the next seven years searching for more money to send to Nigeria and sustain himself.

"Stuart continued to perpetuate the advance-fee fraud scheme, conning dozens of people from all over the U.S. into sending him over \$3.8 million," Warma told the court.

Stuart, Warma said, tried "constantly, repeatedly and unflinchingly" to keep the scam rolling. He told his victims that his father had earned the \$45 million building a

pipeline in the oil-rich country, claimed the money was in two suitcases in Canada, and offered up a photo of money claiming it was the money.

Most importantly, though, he kept hope alive for his benefactors.

Even after authorities searched his home in July 2009, Stuart continued the fraud for another year and drew at least one victim deeper into the scheme. Only his arrest in July 2010 stopped the fraud.

Asking for a 70-day sentence, Stuart offered up a remorseful letter in which he claimed to have believed wholeheartedly that he would pay back the people he now realizes he defrauded.

"It has been depressing facing what I have done," Stuart told the court.

Stuart, a former reserve police officer who has lived his life in rural Whatcom County, is now destitute and will likely remain so for the foreseeable future, public defender Michael Filipovic told the court. He also suffers from a mental health problem that renders him particularly gullible.

Evaluations of Stuart show his judgment was impaired by that mental abnormality, and that he easily fell for the "Nigerian dream," Filipovic said in court documents. Stuart also developed an addiction to pain medication during the long-running scam, which, in his attorney's view, further compromised Stuart's ability to see through the larger fraud.

Since his arrest, though, Stuart has stopped taking illicit drugs and has begun therapy for his mental health

problems, the federal public defender continued.

"Mr. Stuart is a damaged human being, but he has made huge strides in the last 14 months and is unlikely to re-engage in this behavior as long as he stays on the present program," Filipovic told the court. He asked that Stuart be sentenced to 70 days in federal detention and a year in a halfway house.

Filipovic went on to claim Stuart himself was strung along by the "Nigerians," and actually received several fraudulent checks. Several of those close to him also said he believed in the promises made.

Responding to Stuart's claims, Warma disputed that a "delusional disorder" drove the fraud, while asserting the claimed delusions would not explain away the depth and length of the fraud. The federal prosecutor also pointed to statements from Stuart's victims.

Culled from Seattlepi.com

Today's Weather	Tomorrow's Weather
Heavy rain shower in the day	Light rain shower in the day
Max temperature 29°C	Max temperature 30°C
Min. night temperature 22°C	Min. night temperature 21°C
Wind 5	Wind 2
Humidity 75	Humidity 70
Visibility Very Good	Visibility Very Good
Clear sky at night	Clear sky at night
Wind at night 6	Wind at night 7
Humidity at night 75	Humidity at night 70
Visibility Very Good	Visibility Very Good

Source bbc.com