

# Boko Haram

## *ThisDay* Offices

## Bombed, 40 Die

### • In Abuja, Kaduna

### • *The Sun* Also Hit

OLUOKUN AYORINDE,  
NNAMDI FELIX / Abuja &  
FEMI ADI/Kaduna

Nigeria's emergency agencies and medics are still counting the dead in the suicide bombing of the Abuja office of Leaders and Company, publishers of *ThisDay* Newspapers at about 11 a.m. today.

Another blast also occurred almost at the same time at the Kaduna State offices of *ThisDay* and other newspaper outfits.

Death toll arising from the two attacks is said to be higher than 40 and still counting, said emergency and rescue officials.

The blasts are suspected to have been carried out by the Boko Haram, a terrorist group in Nigeria.

In Abuja, a loud explosion reverberated around the Nigerian capital when a bomb laden ve-

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• Scenes of *ThisDay* bomb attack in Abuja, today. PHOTOS: Sahara Reporters

# Fire Destroys 30 Shops

**GBENRO ADESINA/Ibadan**

Over 30 shops were lost to fire outbreak yesterday around 8 a.m. at Bola Ige International Market, Gbagi, Ibadan, capital of Oyo State, Southwest Nigeria.

The fire which lasted for about three hours destroyed wares worth millions of naira.

The fire outbreak, whose cause is yet to be ascertained, affected the sections where clothes, shoes, cosmetics and provisions are sold.

As at the time our correspondent visited the market, the shop owners were seen weeping, while sympathisers were trying

to pacify them.

A trader whose shop was affected was heard praying for death to come and claim her life.

She said while crying: "I have just got those wares. Most of the wares were bought on credit. How will I raise the money to pay my creditor now?"

She was later led out of the market by some leaders of the market.

None of the shops opened today, as the market leaders have ordered that all shops should remain closed.

Another trader, whose shops were also burnt, told *P.M. NEWS* that she was not around when the

incident happened.

She said that no one could trace where the fire started from.

However, she said that the fire could have been put out if the fire service in Gbagi arrived on time, adding that the fire continued to spread until the fire service from Challenge came to their rescue.

"The vehicle of the fire service in Gbagi was bad. They had to call their men in Challenge but they could not get here on time because of the road. The road to the market is very narrow. So they had to station their vehicle a short distance from the market to put out the fire," said the woman.

## Charles Taylor

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and peaceful and to pray for the nation and peace," President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's office said in a statement.

"The Government reaffirms its confidence in the international justice system, especially as a founding member of the United Nations, and believes that the outcome of the trial will be accepted by all Liberians irrespective of our differences," the statement said.

Taylor has been on trial for more than six years on 11 counts of war crimes allegedly committed from November 1991 to January 2002, during the civil war in neighbouring Sierra Leone.

He was judged in The Hague for his indirect role in war crimes such as murder and terrorising civilians, rape and recruiting child soldiers in Sierra Leone in return for "blood diamonds" mined by the rebels.

He launched a rebellion in Liberia in 1989 in a bid to overthrow the hated regime of Samuel Doe, a move which descended into bloody civil war with a panoply of factions.

Taylor was elected president in 1997 but two years later civil war broke out anew and fighting only ended when he fled to Nigeria in 2003.

He remained out of reach there until Nigeria in March

## Boko Haram

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hicle rammed through the back entrance into the printing press section of the office complex, exploding and destroying everything within the press section.

Adjoining buildings around the expansive premises were equally affected by the blast.

Following a recent threat by the dreaded Boko Haram sect to attack media houses over the negative publications the sect had been receiving, Management of ThisDay had barred staff and visitors alike from accessing the office complex from the main entrance and had resorted to the use of the back entrance.

The bomb laden vehicle, whose driver is yet to be identified, was said to have driven fast through a Mechanic workshop close to the back entrance and knocked down the securely locked gates and forcefully gained entrance before ramming into the printing press section where the bomb exploded.

Burnt and smoking flesh belonging to apprentices working at the Mechanic workshop were being collected by officials of Civil Defence and Security Corps, National Emergency Management Agency, NEMA and other security officials at the time our correspondent visited the scene of the blast.

The United States of America Embassy recently attracted knocks from the Federal Government over series of warnings to it's nationals to avoid Abuja hotels which their intelligence reports indicated would be attacked by the terrorist group.

Security and medical personnel at work at the blast site refused to release any figure of casualties saying they have to complete their assignment to ascertain the level of casualties recorded in the blast.

AFP quoting emergency officials, said at least six persons, have died from the blasts in Abuja and Kaduna.

A local emergency management spokesman in Kaduna confirmed at least three dead there, while a rescue official said at least the same number were killed in the Abuja explosion.

In Kaduna, an office block housing Thisday, The Sun and The Moment Newspapers at

Ahmadu Bello Way, by Bayajida Street, Kaduna in Kaduna state, northwest Nigeria was bombed at about 12.05pm.

The Northern Bureau Chief of The Sun Newspaper, Ismail Omipidan confirmed the bombing, adding that the zonal offices of the three newspapers were affected but no journalist lost his life or was injured.

Similarly, the Northern Bureau Chief of The Moment Newspaper, Garba Mohammed confirmed the incident.

However, a member of Red Cross Society at the scene confirmed that his group rescued three persons from the area and they were rushed to the hospital almost at the point of death.

State Emergency Agency Public Relations Officer, Zakare Mohammed said they had taken several people to Barao Dikko General Hospital, Yusuf Damso General Hospital and another hospital in Kaduna for treatment.

Meanwhile, the area has been cordoned off by security agents comprising armed soldiers and policemen. Rescue operation was ongoing as at press time.

Boko Haram militants also last night raided the Nigerian northeastern town of Bajoga in Gombe state, attacking the police station. The casualty figures were sketchy up till this morning. Witnesses said the militants attacked the station with bombs.

A nearby bank was said to have been robbed.

# Accord Party E

**JETHRO IBILEKE/Benin**

The National Executive Committee (NEC) of Accord Party has expelled its governorship candidate in the April 2011 governorship election in Oyo State, Chief Rasheed Ladoja for alleged anti-party activities.

National Secretary of the party, Dr. Samson Isibor who disclosed this to *P.M. NEWS* in a telephone interview, said the party took the decision during a meeting of the NEC members held in Abuja on Tuesday.

"Rasheed Ladoja betrayed our confidence in him. When he caused problem in PDP in Oyo State, he ran to us and told us that he wanted to use our party to

run for the governorship election which he eventually lost. But the man started misbehaving. He doesn't respect the authority of the party, he claimed to be the founder and financier of the party. We warned him. Whenever we invite him to a meeting, he will never come. It was then we took the decision to expel him. He should go back to his PDP. He was trading with our party," Dr. Isibor said.

According to him, anti-party activities of the former governor of Oyo State under PDP include his romance with the government of Ajimobi-led ACN.

"They gave him three slots for Commissioner, Board Members, Deputy Speaker in