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32 killed in Borno market attack

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BY OUR REPORTER ON MARCH 24 2014 -

COVER

From TIMOTHY OLANREWAJU, Maiduguri

At least, 32 people have been killed in an attack on a market in the central part of Borno State by suspected Boko Haram, residents said at the weekend.

Little was known about the attack which occurred on Thursday at Ngurosoye village at Bama Local Government Area, until weekend when residents of the area said that unknown Boko Haram launched a Rapid Propelled Grenade (RPG) from equally unknown point. "The grenade landed in the middle of the market and killed about 29 people. Many traders and villagers were killed," a source, who was at Bama on Thursday said.

But security sources said on the contrary, an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) planted in the market before the commencement of trading by Boko Haram went off during the peak period, leading to the death of 20 people. "The explosive device went off and killed the people. Several other people were injured," one of the sources said.

The state Commissioner of Police, Tanko Lawan could not confirm the attack yesterday as he did not respond to a telephone message sent to him by the reporter.

However, residents said 29 people were buried on Friday while three other victims who were earlier admitted for treatment later died at the weekend, bringing the total casualty to 32. "Three of those injured have eventually died," a local government official said yesterday, a claim which cannot be verified at press time.

Chairman of Bama Local Government, Baba Shehu Gulumba, who visited the injured victims in the hospital at the weekend, donated N50, 000 to a boy who suffered burns during the incident. He also commiserated with the deceased and urged the people to be more vigilant.

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