

NEWS

3 female suicide bombers killed in Maiduguri

FROM TIMOTHY OLANREWAJU, MAIDUGURI

Three Boko Haram suicide bombers in Maiduguri, Borno State capital blew off themselves on Tuesday when the explosive devices wrapped on their bodies exploded untimely. The suspects had embarked on a suicide mission from Konduga Local Government, some 18 kilometres from Maiduguri, the Commissioner of Police, Mr Aderemi Opadokun, told journalists yesterday through a text message.

"Three suspected female suicide bombers died in Konduga LGA about 18 Kilometres to Maiduguri on Tuesday when IEDs strapped to their bodies detonated. All the three suicide bombers were killed and with no other casualty," the commissioner stated.

He said the bombers were female terrorists on a deadly mission to detonate explosive devices in Maiduguri.

He also confirmed another bomb blast at Tungushe Dogonwaya area along Baga/Monguno Highway on same Tuesday at about 3.30pm.

"At about 1530hrs on Tuesday, explosions occurred at Tungushe Dogonwaya area along Baga/Monguno highway," he said, but did not give further details.

'Amnesty International video on Boko Haram fake'

BY CHRIS IWARAH

A coalition of lawyers, civil society activists and Nollywood actors, #Support Our Patriotic Generals Campaigners yesterday warned that the recent report by Amnesty International (AI) alleging various right infractions by Nigerian troops fighting Boko Haram insurgents in the North-East could weaken efforts to free the nation from terrorism.

Represented by former Coordinator of Lawyers' Group of Amnesty International, Nigeria, Aham Njoku, human rights activist, Wale Ogunade, former President of Actors Guild of Nigeria, Ejike Asiegbu, and Sonnie Ekwowusi, a lawyer, at a press conference in Lagos, the group described the video clips Amnesty International relied on in compiling its report as fake.

In a statement they jointly signed, #Support Our Patriotic Generals Campaigners said: "The authenticity of the video tapes on which it (AI) based its report cannot be corroborated by independent sources ... Some of the persons their researchers interviewed to compile the reports had a political axe to grind with the former government in power at the federal level."

Querying the timing of the report, the group said: "Our President, Muhammadu Buhari, resumed work on Monday after being sworn in on Friday and by Wednesday, AI had already rushed to him with a report... Is there a hidden agenda somewhere? Who are those behind this plot to embarrass a generation of Nigerian generals.?"