

Nine Killed In Borno Suicide Attacks

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Nine persons, among them a member of Civilian Joint Task Force (JTF), three male and two female suicide bombers, were killed on Sunday in simultaneous attacks in Muna Garrage and Kaleri wards of Maiduguri, Borno State. This came as the Nigerian Army said that suicide bombers now knock on people's doors to bomb them.

The separate suicide attacks, which occurred about 10:20p.m. and 10:45p.m., caused panic among the people of Borno state, especially now that the military had claimed that it had degraded Boko Haram after capturing Sambisa Forest, the spiritual stronghold of the terrorists.

The attacks came barely 12 hours after some terrorists attacked a military base in Buni Yadi area of Yobe State, which led to the killing of five soldiers, among them a captain.

A resident of Kaleri, Mallam Ali Gujja, told our correspondent that the Maiduguri attacks in Kaleri occurred when two female suicide bombers sneaked into the community located behind the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital and pretended to be Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) looking for a place to spend the night. He said: "The suicide bombers disguised as IDPs.

One of them approached my neighbour's house and knocked on the gate, when the occupants heard her voice, they asked who was at the gate.

“Unfortunately, the daughter of an official of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), Hassan Mandara, went out to open the gate to know who was knocking.

When she opened the gate, the female suicide bomber told her that she was an IDP looking for a place to pass the night.

When the girl told her that they did not have an extra-room to accommodate her, the suicide bomber quickly hugged her, detonated the explosives wrapped on her body which killed both of them instantly.

Parts of the house were also destroyed. “Also, another female suicide bomber approached a house in Kaleri and knocked on their gate, but when the occupants refused to open the gate, she detonated her explosives killing only herself.”

At Muna Barrage, male suicide bombers succeeded in killing three persons, among them a member of Civilian JTF. When contacted, the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), DSP Victor Isuku, confirmed the suicide attacks.

He said: “About 2020 hours of yesterday (Sunday), three male suicide bombers shot sporadically and attempted to infiltrate Maiduguri via Garki Muna village close to a military checkpoint.

“The Improvised Explosive Device (IED) strapped to their bodies exploded, killing all of them, and a civilian JTF. Two AK47 rifles were recovered, while one was completely destroyed as a result of the explosion.

“Then about 2230 hours same date, there were two suicide bomb attacks at Kaleri area of Gwange.

Four persons, including the two female suicide bombers, died in the explosion. Both scenes were swept and rendered safe for public access by personnel from Explosive Ordinance Department (EOD), Special Anti-

Robbery Squad (SARS) and patrol teams of the command in the wee hours of today (yesterday). Normalcy has since returned to these areas.”

Meanwhile, the Nigerian Army has advised members of the public to be wary as suicide bombers have devised a new method of carrying out their nefarious acts.

The Deputy Director, Army Public Relations, 7 Division, Maiduguri, Col. Mustapha Anka, gave the warning in a statement yesterday. He said: “This is to draw the attention of the general public to recent trend used by desperate remnants of Boko Haram Terrorists (BHT).

“Recently, two female suicide bombers knocked at the door of Bulama and Usman about 200 metres apart in Kalari general area of Maiduguri.

“The daughter of the Bulama opened the door, while the Usman himself opened his own door immediately the suicide bombers detonated their suicide vests, in the process killing the unsuspected little girl, Usman and the two female suicide bombers.

“The general public is hereby advised to be cautious and wary of strange persons knocking on their doors.