

# Boko Haram threatens to bomb Abuja in latest video

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About 20 months after suspected Boko Haram elements carried out simultaneous bomb attacks on the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), the sect has once again threatened to visit violence on the city.

The threat of a fresh attack on Abuja was made in a video by one of the commanders swapped last weekend for 82 Chibok schoolgirls.

But, the Army, in a swift reaction yesterday, said the freed commander was merely seeking relevance.

This was as the Army said its troops have killed four fighters in Borno State.

It is pertinent to recall that Abuja had suffered about 5 different bomb attacks, including the April 14, 2014 incident at Nyanya, a suburb of Abuja, which left dozens dead, and scores injured.

However, in the latest video purportedly released by the said commander, the sect is vowing to continue its blood-letting campaign on vulnerable targets, including the capital city.

In the video, which Reuters said was allegedly obtained by Sahara Reporters, the said kingpin was quoted as serving a chilling notice thus: "More bombs attacks are on the way, including Abuja that you feel is secured".

The threat notwithstanding, the Army has described the warning as an attempt to seek relevance and attention.

Reacting to the video in a statement yesterday, the Director, Army Public Relations (DAPR), Brigadier-General Sani Usman, said the kingpin had lost touch with reality, as the period of detention would have

denied him the privilege of feeling the result of the military's renewed counter-insurgency offensive.

Usman said: "The attention of Nigerian Army has been drawn to two video clips released by one of the released Boko Haram terrorists in exchange for the abducted Chibok school girls.

"In the first clip the terrorist, among other things, made boastful and spurious allegations, while the second clip was about alleged indoctrination of some of the abducted Chibok school girls in captivity.

"We wish to state that the terrorist has lost touch with current realities.

"It was aimed at seeking relevance and attention."

While urging the public to disregard the threat, he recalled that the fighter was a beneficiary of the negotiation that led to the release of 82 schoolgirls, a few days ago.

His words: "As you are all aware, he was a direct beneficiary of the process that led to the release of 82 of the abducted girls, and does not have a say or capacity to do anything, therefore his threats should be ignored."

The DAPR further stated: "We would like to assure the public that the Nigerian Army is totally committed to the Federal Government's determined efforts of rescuing all abducted persons and peace in the country.

"We will not relent our determined efforts of clearing the remnants of the Boko Haram terrorists as manifested through the on-going clearance operations.

"The Nigerian Air Force is unrelenting in its bombardment while other Security Agencies are equally doing their best.

"Therefore, we wish to solicit for more support, cooperation and understanding

of the public, particularly members of the Press."

And earlier on Saturday, a security man of the University of Maiduguri was killed, while a soldier was injured when three suicide bombers suspected to be members of the Boko Haram terrorists detonated Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) strapped on their bodies while attempting to gain entry into the university.

The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) in a press statement signed by its North-East, Information Officer, Abdulkadir Ibrahim said: "At about 1:10am, three suicide bombers, two men and a woman attempted to gain access into university of Maiduguri, but were sighted by the university security who stopped them for interrogation. While interrogating them, the two suicide bombers detonated their explosives devices which injured one of the security men and killed another."

The statement further said: "The third suicide bomber, who hid close to the vicinity of a church in the university, later detonated her explosive which affected the structure of the church, but with no casualties."

He said the injured security man was taken to the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital (UMTH) after administration of first aid while the corpses were deposited at Borno Specialist Hospital by the NEMA Emergency Response Team (ERT) team.

Also confirming, the incident, Borno spokesman of the Borno State Police Command, DSP Victor Isuku said: "In the early hours of today, three suicide bombers gained entry into the premises of the University of Maiduguri,

and advanced towards the mechanical workshop of the university. They were intercepted by the university security personnel and soldiers on duty.

"In an attempt to apprehend them, the suicide bombers hurriedly detonated IEDs strapped on their bodies, killing themselves and a university security personnel in the process, while a soldier was reported injured in the explosion, and is currently receiving treatment at University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital (UMTH).

In the meantime, the Army has said that four Boko Haram suspects have been killed by troops of 145 and 158 Task Force Battalions in Borno State.

The disclosure was made in a statement by the Deputy Director, Army Public Relations (8 Task Force Division), Colonel Timothy Antigha.

Antigha noted that the operation leading to the killing of the suspected Boko Haram elements was carried out on a fish smuggling ring.

He, however, disclosed that a soldier was killed during the exercise.

According to him: "Troops of 145 and 158 Task Force Battalions, 5 Brigade have smashed a fish smuggling ring perpetrated by Boko Haram terrorists to fund their criminal activities.

"The success was recorded during a joint ambush operation conducted in Julari village, along Kareto-Dam-asak road, Borno State. During the operation, troops neutralized four Boko Haram terrorists.

"Similarly, they recovered 1 AK 47 rifle, 1 Toyota Hilux pick up, 3 Motorcycles, 35 bags of dry fish, 1 bag of bush meat, 3 bags of sugar and 60 litres of engine oil."