

NEWS

Many feared killed as gas explosion rocks Kaduna

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KADUNA

An unspecified number of persons have been killed in a gas explosion in Sabon-Tasha area of Kaduna metropolis in Chikun Local Government Area.

The incident took place at about 1:00pm on Saturday

in what those around the area described in an illegal gas station located by Kachia Road, opposite a Total Filling Station.

The detonation caused fear and apprehension among many residents close to the gas station who initially thought it was a bomb explosion.

Many were said to have taken to their heels to es-

Govt condoles with victims' families

cape the ensuing inferno. An eyewitness, Philip Kambai, who survived the blast, disclosed to newsmen that he was in a saloon close to the gas station for a haircut along with three other people and was on his way out of the saloon when the explosion took place.

Kambai said: "They had just finished cutting my hair and I was going out then I heard 'boom'! I fell down, but I managed to get up. Then I saw fire, so I went behind and climbed a fence and in the process I

the fence, but I doubt if the barber and two others came out alive."

Some of those killed in the explosion were shredded beyond recognition as the police were seen packing pieces of human flesh and body parts that littered the road.

Also said to have been killed was a man who parked his car by the roadside to have a haircut in the saloon.

The building housing the gas shop was completely burnt down following the

were able to stop the fire from spreading to other surrounding buildings.

The incident led to a serious traffic gridlock as vehicles plying the Kachia Road had to divert to other alternative routes.

This was as security agents also had a hectic time trying to control the crowd that trooped out to the scene of the incident.

In the mean time, the Kaduna State Government has condoled with the families of those that lost their loved ones in the unfortunate incident.

Samuel Aruwan, State Commissioner, Internal Security and Home Affairs said: "Our thoughts are with them in this sad moment."

Part of the statement read: "The state government also sympathised with the citizens that sustained injuries in the explosion.

"The state government commends the emergency services, including fire fighters of both Kaduna State and the Federal Fire Service and the Red Cross.

"The government has also expressed its gratitude to the security agencies that participated in the search

Okorocha, Ararume plot alliance against Ihedioha

Steve Uzoechi
OWERRI

(AA) Party.

Okorocha, who made the