

Tuesday 27 December, 2011 Updated 14:25

[Home](#) [My Account](#) [About Us](#) [Contact Us](#)

A Passion For Excellence.

**access** >>>

- [HOME](#)
- [NEWS](#)
- [THISDAYBUSINESS](#)
- [THISDAYSPORTS](#)
- [POLITICSTHISDAY](#)
- [LIFE AND STYLE](#)
- [BACKPAGE](#)
- [Editorial](#)
- [Thisday-tv](#)
- [Views from the Street](#)

## [Articles](#)

[HOME](#) > [NEWS](#)

### Explosion Kills another Bomb Maker

20 Dec 2011

Views: 12,156

Font Size: [a](#) / [A](#)



#### Nigerian Police

By Michael Olugbode and John Shiklam

For Boko Haram, it is fast becoming a comedy of errors as a suspected member of the sect was accidentally killed Monday in Damaturu, Yobe State, while trying to assemble an explosive.

Two others were lucky to escape with varying degrees of injuries – barely three days after three suspected members of the group were killed in similar circumstances in

Maiduguri – a casualty figure confirmed Monday by the leadership of the sect.

In Kaduna, it was a case of another error as another bomb exploded Monday along Ibrahim Rintiyi Street, Unguwan Magaji, behind the National Eye Centre, injuring those believed to be assembling explosive devices.

The three men in Damaturu were also said to be engrossed in bomb making at about noon when the device suddenly exploded.

According to a source, one of the injured persons was rushed to Damaturu Specialist Hospital, while the others ran away for the fear of being arrested.

The one that was taken to the hospital by the police, it was gathered, died in the evening.

The explosion, which occurred at the Pompomari area, close to the palace of the Emir of Damaturu, also left some residents with minor injuries as it shook the entire neighbourhood.

The Commissioner of Police, Tanko Lawal, said “some suspected members of the Boko Haram sect were assembling some explosive materials”.

He said the police were already on the trail of the two others, promising that his men should be able to get to the end of the incident.

The police boss also said: “We were able to recover three AK-47 riffles, ammunition, various weapons and explosive-making materials from the scene.”

He disclosed that there was a distress call from a member of the public as soon as the explosion occurred and that officers and men of the police were dispatched immediately to the area which they had to condone off.

In Kaduna, the explosion triggered a pandemonium with many residents of the area running to the old campus of the Nigerian Defence Academy (NDA) located about two kilometres away for their dear lives.

No life was lost but seven houses were brought down by the explosion which was said to have occurred at about 1.30 pm.

The incident occurred two weeks after eight persons were killed and seven others injured in the explosion that rocked the Ori-Apata area of Kaduna metropolis.

Three persons believed to be the occupants of the house where the explosion occurred managed to escape from the blast but with injuries.

However, residents of the area were said to have pursued and caught them when they attempted to escape and were promptly handed over to the police.

A combined team of soldiers, police anti-bomb squad, Civil Defence Corps and the SSS had condoned off the place at the time journalists arrived the scene of the incident.

Police sources at the scene of the incident said three military rifles were recovered from

the rubbles of the house.

“We are still digging the rubbles to see if there are more weapons covered underneath,” said the police officer.

The house, according to security sources, might have been an illegal armoury and a base for manufacturing bombs.

The police anti-bomb squad recovered a sack full of what was believed to be bomb-making devices, complete with a car battery and a generating set.

Mallam Muba Namando, 60, who lives a few meters from the house where the explosion occurred, narrated how the explosion took place.

“It must have been around 1pm. I had just finished my afternoon prayers and was about to come home, when the ground shook and I heard this explosion.

“Then I saw that house smoking. I thought it was gas cylinder that exploded. As I ran there, I saw three people running out. Then some people chased them and caught them. There was an argument about what to do with them. They were bleeding and they had burns on them. We then agreed that they cannot be taken to the hospital without police knowing.

“As we were looking for ways to get to the police, a series of more explosions took place. But no one was hurt, because we were already all out. By now, the police arrived and took them away. I have been here for about a year. This is the first time I am seeing this kind of thing,” he said.

Mallam Maidala Ilu, 35, who owns an uncompleted mud-house near the explosion site, said: “One of them (occupants of the house where the explosion occurred) was badly hurt and he was behaving as if he was mentally unstable. He was reciting the Quran and talking to himself. He made an attempt to escape, but we caught him and pinned him down. I later left for my shop. Then I heard a series of explosions from there.”

The Ward Head of the area, Malam Mai Unguwan Yakubu, said: “This is the first time we saw this kind of explosion.”

The owner of the house, one Aminu Yusuf, 42, was arrested by the police and brought to the scene of the explosion. He told journalists that he rented the house through an agent on July 17.

“I only know that they are Hausa people. I was told they were married with children, but that their families would join them later. Only the agent knows about them. I saw them once. The agent is a Hausa man called Abulrazak. That is all I know about him,” he said.

Confirming the incident, the spokesman of the Kaduna State Police Command, Aminu Lawan, a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), said: “We suspect that the house was being used for bomb making and it was in the process of making the bomb that it exploded on the victims.”

He said they suspect that the three people who are in their custody are bomb