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Four Killed in Roadside Explosion

Michael Olugbode in Maiduguri

Two suspected female suicide bombers who were waiting by the roadside to travel to Damaturu were killed in an accidental detonation of explosive yesterday.

The two women, according to the witness, died in the explosion with two other intending travelers, who were equally waiting by their side at Ngamdu village, a distance of 100 kilometres from Maiduguri, the Borno state capital and 30 kilometres from Damaturu, the capital of Damaturu where they were headed.

It was gathered that the two women, in their late 20s and wearing long Hijab, were probably heading to Damaturu for a major suicide bombing expedition but were prevented by inability to get a commercial vehicle to take them to their destination.

The eyewitness, said he cannot say how the women got to Ngamdu, but they were waiting by the roadside for a vehicle to convey them to Damaturu.

According to him "the women looked suspiciously and when they flagged down our vehicle, the commercial driver was wise enough to

tell them we were not headed for Damaturu.

He said: "our bus driver whom the women flagged down to convey them to Damaturu, suddenly became suspicious after observing how disheveled they both looked and quickly declined by pretending that he was not getting as far as Damaturu.

"Some of us were slightly suspicious when we saw them, although we wanted to have sympathy for them as we felt perhaps they may not be what we suspected them to, but the driver had already made up his mind about them and decided to drive off.

"He (the driver) just mere looking at them had the presence of mind to suspect that they were suicide bombers and immediately told them he was not going as far as Damaturu; that he would only get to the next village about 5km ahead and then turn back to Maiduguri.

"One of the women who looked desperate insisted they should join the vehicle to our destination and follow him back to Maiduguri so that they could get a vehicle from there to Damaturu because they had waited all day without getting a vehicle."

Court to Hear Case Challenging Legality of PVC March 8