J'aime

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Four killed as blast rocks Maiduguri mosque

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By Our Reporters

Four people were killed in Maiduguri, Borno State, following a bomb blast near a mosque yesterday. The blast was said to have taken place as Muslims left a mosque after Friday prayers. The explosion came after the Christmas attacks on Madalla Church, Niger state by the violent Islamist sect Boko Haram killed at least 32 people. The sect also explained why it struck at the church. No one has claimed responsibility for the Maiduguri blast.

Meanwhile, Nigerian security services are considering making contact with moderate members of Boko Haram via "back channels," even though explicit talks are officially ruled out, the National Security Adviser, General Owoye Andrew Azazi said



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probably court the wrath of many Nigerians by expressing my supposedly weird opinion. weird, considering the fact that thinking outside the box may be considered a crime. The issue of the...

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yesterday. Azazi told Reuters officials secret services were looking at broadening efforts beyond pure security measures — including addressing northern economic grievances.



Azazi's comments signal an apparent shift from treating Boko Haram purely as a security issue that must be tackled militarily. But his statement contrasts with President Goodluck Jonathan's who said yesterday that government would fight the sect with all its might, thereby foreclosing any form of dialogue and amnesty as being canvassed in certain quarters.

Speaking to Mr. Mohame Bazoum, Deputy Prime Minister of Niger Republic, who brought a condolence message for lives lost during the Christmas day bombings and solidarity message from President Issoufou Mahamadou to State House, Abuja, Friday, Jonathan vowed that it was time for good to prevail over evil.

Also, for the second day in a stretch,
President Jonathan Friday continued an
emergency meeting with top security
echelon but this time without the service
chiefs, giving fresh orders to security to fish
out the sponsors of the Boko Haram sect
and put an end to the condemnable pace of
bombing in the country.

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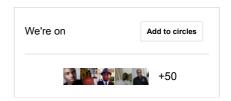
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Beside the National Security Adviser, NSA, Gen. Andrew Azazi (rtd), others in the meeting were the Vice President, Namadi Sambo, the Inspector General of Police, Hafiz Ringim, Director General State Security Service, SSS, Ita Ekpenyong, and Director-General, Nigeria Intelligence Agency, NIA, Olaniyi Oladeji. President Jonathan reiterated his warning that henceforth nobody would be spared if the person fails to act on information provided.

Boko Haram has however justified its Christmas bombings at the St Theresa catholic Church Madalla, saying it was a reprisal for the Muslims killed in parts of the north by Christians. It also threatened to unleash more strikes today, December31 an January 1.

Fear more attacks, Christians in some some northern states have deserted their churches, festivals have been cancelled while residents in Jos, capital of Plateau state fear a possible attack. Residents in Damaturu, capital of Yobe state have also deserted the city.

From the South East, Chairman of the region's Christian Association of Nigeria, CAN, has told Christians not to be intimidated by the sect.

In its statement issued on Thursday by its leader Imam Abu-Muhammad Abubakar bin Muhammad Shekau, Boko Haram through its spokesman Abul Qaqa said, "I am informing all Nigerians and the rest of the world that there is no doubt that we committed that act and God's willing we will

carry out further attacks." We swear by Allah that we will avenge any form of injustice committed, being committed or to be committed against Muslims. This is just the beginning," Shekau vowed.

The attacks, he said, are meant to avenge the "mass killing of Muslims carried out by Christians with the connivance of government."

But CAN leader, South East zone, Bishop Emmanuel Chukwuma, told Christians not to be intimidated by the recent attacks on their places of worship but to be vigilant.

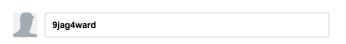
The people of Southern Kaduna, largely Christians, fearing possible Boko Haram bombing, has however cancelled its 2012 Afan Festival, also known as Kagoro Day. The event, the largest and most popular ethnic festival in Northern Nigeria, is normally held on the 1st of January.

Boko Haram had vowed to bomb Christian communities on 31st Dec and 1st Jan 2012. The cancellation of Kagoro Day was contained in a statement yesterday in Kagoro, Southern Kaduna by president of its development association, Sunday Gwafan.

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When they make the statement: "We shall make Nigeria ungovernable.", they might have been boasting. Now that Nigeria is seemingly ungovernable, how does that bring them close to ruling Nigeria? Impossible.

I can understand the irritation we feel at our President not seemingly having the magic wand to stamp out bh; terrorists are sponsored; if you can't get those sponsoring them, you may be wasting time pruning the leaves.

Hopefully our intelligence bodies are digging for facts and combing for the diabolical sponsors. But until they can expose one or two big satanic fish, there is no end in sight. Until that happens, we can only use our brains to be vigilant, employ our guts to dare them come out of hiding and pray God to protect the weak against the strong (most of who are in high places using Nigerian money against Nigerians).

Come what may, they shall be denied our votes. If they use force of COUP' DE TA, we shall defend our chosen rulers even when they are not perfect; we shall come out en mass.

5 days ago 1 Like

Like Reply



andy prigge

If the Northerners have a grievance against the government about economic matters, should they not then attack the Government instead of Churches? This is a war of islam against Christians, plain and simple. I pray for the victims of these crimes, and also for those doing them that they would repent. May Jesus Christ and His armies of angels protect Nigeria.

5 days ago

Like Reply



Poweruponpower

Got some spare time now people. To the

buffoons and 'Osama' wanna 'Bin' who call themselves Boko or whatever, you are a long long way from becoming authentic jihadists. Whereas Osama and associates openly identified with their cause and went on to endure untold discomfort and hardships, facing down the mighty US military, indulging in voluntary self deprivation despite being born into wealth and privilege and generally holding out till the bitter end, what is your story so far? You cannot even claim credit for your dubious enterprise in your own name. You say all things western are 'haram'(forbidden) but wait a minute! Was your press release just done in English? The Kalashnikovs, explosives and logistics that enable your activities were they invented/made by one Mukhtar in Kaura Namuda? Well, listen up buddy, we will begin to take your hate for all things western seriously the day your bulletins are disbursed by men on camel or horseback, your weapons are spears, bows and arrows and your foot soldiers turbaned marauding gangs on horseback Dan Fodio style. Issuing threats while ensconced in plush dwelling places made comfortable by 'haram' infrastructure like electricity, piped water and motorable roads puts the lie to all you foolishly believe in. There is yet time for you bigots to wake up from this daydream...

5 days ago 4 Likes

Like Reply



Joseph Ubiagba

The instinct of self preservation is God given. There is nothing wrong if the Christian community in hot areas t-stay away from their churches when they are not sure of security. Christians are not prepare for bomb throwing. BUT WE ARE GRADUALLY SAYING BYE-BYE TO THE NATION CALL NIGERIA. Because no-one can feed from the people he want to kill.

5 days ago

Like Reply



olusina

Muslims were bombed during the fasting and Eld il kabir festivals, Christians were bombed during the Christmas, National stadium was bombed on an independent day anniversary, now Muslims were bombed during Friday service!

The problem has both political and religious reasons. The best man to throw light on the issue now OBJ. At least it was reported that he had a meeting with some factions of these nuisances. We need to know the issues discussed during the meeting.

The hands of both Muslims and Christians leaders in the north are not clean.

5 days ago

Like Reply



1kayod5

Sucide bombers are the most difficult evils to be controlled, a man is not only ready to kill others but if possible himself, that is why sucide bombing is very dangerous to tame. Just imagine a man that wakes up in his house, takes a cutlass and behaves as if going to farm and suddenly enters a primary school and kills as many pupils as he wants, if he dies in the process he does not care, he has no definite target, anybody is okay as a vicitim, every place is okay, every pain on to other, big or small, is a success; put all security in every city he goes to town, put it in every town, he goes to village, put it at every village, he goes to village square or individual houses or at worst his own house, stop him from using bombs he uses guns, stop him from gun and he uses petrol, when all these failed, he simply uses cutlass and knife; a man that has prepared to trade off his own personal life in order to kill many may possibly succeed in his art,

but why should a man want to do this? Teaching: relegious teaching, political teaching, economic teaching and any other psychological teaching that can help to dehumanise man.But can force work on sucide bombers?No, force only works on rational and living minds that still fear the pain of force but for a bomber that has already prepared to die, the fear of pain of force is no more in him, he has alredy stilled his soul, mind and heart to pain from force and threat to him has become water-"threat na water o". The solution can come from:One, do his wish;two, divest or divorce him from his state of mind(rehaibilitate), and three, limit his field of operation, however you must hear from him to know his wish, it only in doing this you can know if to do his wish or to rehaibilitate him or to simply reduce his field of operation; which probably may mean separation.

bakadi21

5 days ago 1 Like

Like Reply



emekabenajmin

To me the country has failed spiritually, what is remaining is the outward manifestation of the disintegrated entity called Nigeria. God bless us.

5 days ago 1 Like

Like Reply



smartemeofa

I'm stunned over the cancellation of church activities in the north because of the boko haran's threat of bombing churches on the 31st of December and 1st of January respectively. If I may ask, where is the God of Elijah? Is He dead? Where is your faith you Pastors? Are you really serving the true

God? If yes, why are you running away from the agents of the devil? This is a period of examination for you Pastors and Christians in the north. I'm sure God is testing your faith. So running away is telling God that the god of boko haram is greater than the ALMIGHTY GOD. You should not accept defeat because your God is not dead. Pastors, you should be the Elijah of today. You can entreat God to blindfold the boko haram or better still entreat Him to devastate the evil spirits inciting them to what they are doing. These perpetrators are not normal human beings. The bad spirits operating in them are very strong. So it takes the prayers of SUPERNATURAL ANOINTED MEN OF GOD to deliver them from such hostilities and atrocities. This also calls for national prayers for the demolition of every bad spirit operating in the lives of the dreaded boko haram. They need deliverance from God Almighty. They are human beings like us but not normal. But tell me, why will somebody decides to take his own life and the lives of other people by committing suicide bombing? What pleasure does he derive in doing that? Their sponsors, what benefits do they derive for carrying out their missions? Well, on the last day when we shall all stand before God they will answer so many questions. The blood of those innocent Christians sent to their untimely death will be required from them.

5 days ago 3 Likes

Like Reply



Adecrowns

From now onwards, Nigeria Police
Force and and other security agencies
should issue permanent directives that their
men should be present in or around
sensitive and strategic places where people
gather be churches, mosques, parties or
jamborees, hotels, markets, entertainment
joints, motor parks, schools, political

gatherings without even invitations. By this, it will serve as a deterrent to terrorism, anti-social behaviours and other vices. This is one of the effective strategies being used by Metropolitan Police in London. By now the Police helicopters should be flying close to the ground levels around major cities.

Prevention is cheaper than cure.

6 days ago 3 Likes

Like Reply



Jidda

We commiserate with all our brothers and sisters (both Christians & Moslems) who lost loved ones as a result of the mindless terrorist violence unleashed by the draped demons Boko Haram. We condemn these devilish acts being perpetrated by Boko Haram on Nigerians. These acts are un-Islamic. The final abode of all the members and sympathizers of this murderous Boko Haram is the bottom pit of hell.

6 days ago 1 Like

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