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Tunde Ogunwo

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Gombe violence: Over 40 explosives planted

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Gunmen suspected of being Boko Haram Islamists killed a dozen people when they razed a police station after failing to storm a jail in Gombe, police said yesterday.

The city was put under lock-down, with no residents allowed to leave their homes, after the gun and bomb attacks in a botched attempt to free inmates, just as there was a bomb scare in the residence of a minister in Abuja.

"The gunmen had attempted to break into the prison near the police station and their attempt was unsuccessful, but they succeeded in burning down the police station," police chief for Gombe State Gandhi Ebikeme Orubebe told AFP.

"So far 12 people have been killed in the bomb and shooting attack, 10 of them were civilians and two policemen," he said, adding that the police station had been blown up with bombs.

Eye witnesses said over 40 explosions went off about the same time in the town, saying it was a coordinated attack. They said they counted 14 bodies.

The dead bodies of ten police men and four civilians, according to them, were sighted at the Gombe State Specialist Hospital around 8 a.m., yesterday, while more victims and corpses were being received in the hospital and other health facilities in the town.

It was also gathered that some of the explosions went off while Muslims were observing the 8 p.m. prayers at the Gombe Central Mosque situated at the large premises of Emir of Gombe Palace, adjacent the police division, the scene of the explosion.

A resident of the city, Mallam Adamu, who spoke on phone, said that many people thought that a civil war had ensued when the explosions were heard.

Meanwhile, Governor Ibrahim Hassan Dankwambo declared a 24-hour curfew in the state.

Dankwambo called for calm and prayers just as he pleaded with the people to be law abiding. He also sympathized with the families of those who lost their lives and those that sustained injuries.

Boko Haram:
Nigeria
repatriates
11,000 aliens

Ojukwu: Govt
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The capital city witnessed unusual calm and silence and streets remained completely deserted following the curfew while only police and military personnel were seen carrying out their duties.

The incident caused a complete lock down of all business activities in the town.

On January 5, Boko Haram attacked a Deeper Life Church in Gombe killing over 10 persons and leaving over 20 others critical wounded.

Just when the people had thought that Gombe was becoming safe and peaceful, the explosions occurred, Friday night, reminding the people of the ugly incident. No-one has claimed responsibility for the attack. Islamist sect Boko Haram last week said it was behind a prison raid in central Kogi State, near the capital Abuja, which freed 119 inmates.

Boko Haram, blamed for a wave of recent raids in northern and central Nigeria, has repeatedly claimed its members are being illegally held in state prisons and demanded their release.

Many of Boko Haram's recent attacks have targeted the police, but suspected members of the sect also gunned down five worshipers inside a mosque on Friday as evening prayers ended in Kano.

Boko Haram's violent campaign has intensified in recent months and, on Thursday, Nigeria's top military chief said the group had formed links with Al-Qaeda's north Africa branch, known as Al-Qaeda in

the IslamicMaghreb.

“I have seen at least 14 burnt bodies in and aroundthe police station,” a witness in Gombe said earlier oncondition of anonymity.

He said he counted 10 bodies inside thepolice building, while four others were found dead in a burned outcar outside the station.

Orubebe said the prison raiders were”repelled by our men guarding the place, then they came to onepolice station and fired a lot of guns and also threw bombs.” BokoHaram, whose name means “Western education is sin” in theHausa language, had previously targeted Christian worshipers inGombe.

The sect launched an uprising in 2009 in Africa’s mostpopulous nation, which was put down by a brutal military assault thatleft some 800 people dead.

After lying dormant for about a year,the group has re-emerged with a series of shootings and bomb attacksthat have killed around 1,000 people. Its deadliest assault left 185people dead in Kano last month.

The group also claimedresponsibility for a Christmas Day bomb attack on a Catholic Churchoutside the capital Abuja that claimed at least 44 lives, and asuicide blast at UN headquarters in the city that killed 25 inAugust.

Bomb scare

In the meantime, there was pandemonium in Abuja, yesterday, following a bomb scare at a private residence of the Federal Capital Territory Minister, Senator Bala Mohammed, located at Garki II area of the territory, when two unidentified youths reportedly dropped an undisclosed item inside a car parked at a private hospital directly opposite the minister's residence.

Eyewitnesses said the two youths, who drove into the street in the evening in an exotic car, walked into the hospital on the street where they broke the windscreen of a car belonging to a patient and parked inside the hospital, dropping a substance wrapped in a black polythene bag inside the car and bolted away.

The resultant alarm from the damaged car attracted its owner and other residents in the area who, on sighting the substance inside the car, scampered for fear that it could be a bomb. Their fears were heightened by the fact that the invaders immediately drove away after planting the unknown substance in the car.

An eyewitness said within minutes, the whole street was deserted as everyone ran for their lives, including the team of mobile policemen guarding the minister's residence, and sick patients inside the hospital.

Shortly after, a police team from the anti-bomb unit arrived and sniffed the scene for bombs, after which they made away with yet unidentified substance. The entire street was subsequently cordoned by policemen.

When contacted on the incident, the FCT police public relations officer, Jimoh Moshood, declined to comment on the matter, saying "I am not aware of that incident", in spite of reports that his boss FCT commissioner of police, Michael Zuokumor, later visited the residence of the minister, who is currently on official assignment in China, to ascertain that all was well.

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Omuya Steven Otaru

Boko Haram is evil..killings of any forms is evil..the writer of Quran has given a reason why many Islamic sects engaged in this so called Jihad for Allah cause....Many muslims are peaceful but some use this part of jihad doctrine to perpetuate evil..God will help us.

4 days ago 6 Likes

Like Reply



rohlit

40 BOMBS PLANTED, ALL UNDER THE EYES OF POLICE, SSS AND SOLDIERS ??? IT SHOWS THE PRESIDENCY AND THE SECURITY IN THIS COUNTRY IS DEAD AND PEOPLE ARE LEFT TO FEND AND DEFEND FOR THEMSELVES. IT IS NOTHING BUT ANARCHY. IT IS THE PASSIVE PRESIDENCY WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL THIS MESS IN NIGERIA. THE PRESIDENCY OF THIS COUNTRY HAS WOEFULLY FAILED, REPEATEDLY, TO PROTECT THE LIFE AND PROPERTY OF INNOCENT

LAW-ABIDING NIGERIANS.

UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE NIGERIAN MILITARY BOYS SHOULD IMMEDIATELY PREPARE TO TAKE OVER NIGERIA AND SAVE THIS COUNTRY FROM THE WRATH OF THESE CROOKS, MURDERERS AND BIG-TIME TREASURY LOOTERS. WE ALL KNOW, THERE WAS FAR LESS LOOTING IN THE PAST MILITARY ERA.

THE CURRENT POLITICIANS ARE THE ONES WHO CREATED, SPONSORED AND CONTINUALLY SUPPORTED BOKO HARAM TILL THIS DAY BECAUSE THESE DIRTY POLITICIANS GAIN BY CREATING SUCH CONFUSION IN THE COUNTRY WITH A VIEW TO DO EFFECTIVE AND CONTINUED LOOTING OF THE TREASURY. THAT IS THE REASON WHY, BOKO HARAM DID NOT, SO FAR, KILL ANY OF THESE THUG-POLITICIANS. THEY BRIBE THEM HEAVILY EVERYDAY AND SUPPORT THEIR DEADLY ACTIVITIES. THERE IS A CLEAR CONSPIRACY AND CONNIVANCE WITH BOKO HARAM HERE. NOTHING SHORT BUT A MILITARY TAKE OVER, PREFERABLY BLOODY, WILL WORK IN OUR SORDID COUNTRY, NIGERIA. IN THIS WAY, ONLY THESE DIRTY LOOTERS WILL LEARN ANY LESSON ON CORRUPTION IF THEY LIVE TO SURVIVE THE COUP.

NIGERIAN DEMOCRACY IS NOT READY TO SUPPORT THESE THOUSANDS OF POLITICAL THUGS AND BARE-FACED CROOKS, EACH ONE OF WHOM, IS BUSY SYPHONING AWAY TENS OF BILLIONS OF NAIRA EVERYDAY. THAT IS HOW THE OIL MONEY DISAPPEARS- STRAIGHT INTO THEIR POCKETS. NIGERIANS ARE SICK TO THEIR NECKS AND ARE FULLY READY TO EMBRACE

WHOLEHEARTEDLY A MILITARY COUP
AT THIS POINT IN TIME IN OUR HISTORY.
IT IS ONLY THE POLITICAL THUGS
LOOTING THE ENTIRE NATIONAL OIL
WEALTH OF THIS COUNTRY , WHO
CONTINUE TO PLAY THE EMPTY DRUM
F DEMOCRACY BECAUSE IT HELPS
THEM, TO SMOOTHLY LOOT THE
NATION'S WEALTH IN COLLABORATION
WITH THEIR FOREIGN PARTNERS
WITHOUT ANY WELFARE PROGRAMMES
FOR THE MASSES OF NIGERIA. IN VIEW
OF THIS, REST ASSURED, ORDINARY
NIGERIANS ARE READY TO WELCOME
THE MILITARY COUP ANY TIME NOW.

LONG LIVE NIGERIA AND THE MASSES
OF NIGERIA BUT DEATH TO THE
LOOERS.

4 days ago 10 Likes

Like Reply



AbusiGiftEblegberi

No food on the table, is the President.
No water, is the President, no security
man on your house, is the president.
He is just a president not a security
officer, what do you take the president
for? Who is the IG, where is he from? It
is people like you that destroy this
country because you are one of them.
Ask Buhari the course, he has the right
answer for you. Continue to kill
yourselves, Nigeria will still move on.

Biseni

3 days ago in reply to rohlit Like Reply

1 Like



Azeez Adewale Ojasanya

you are a confusion to you self, read
your statement-
40 BOMBS PLANTED, ALL UNDER
THE EYES OF POLICE, SSS AND

SOLDIERS ??? now you needed military to take over after degrading them!!

4 days ago in reply to rohlit Like Reply
1 Like



rohlit

GOD BLESS YOU AZEEZ, I DO NOT DECEIVE ANYONE EITHER KNOWINGLY OR UNKNOWNINGLY. THE TRUTH IS TRUTH AND IT IS BEFORE THE WHOLE NATION NATION.

3 days ago Like Reply
in reply to Azeez
Adewale Ojasanya



Ayekoto

Gombe: Can the new acting IGP be trusted?

Though, it is a common practice in Nigeria that, when an individual is just appointed, either as substantive or in acting capacity to a new position, the first, he or she would do, is to want to gain public attention, praises and encomiums, and sometimes will be looking for additional or new aliases, such as 'action man, no-nonsense man, the best man for job, etc.

This unnecessary attention seeking attitudes has continued to plague our nation, ruin continuity in government policies and programmes and prevent the country from getting things done rightly. In Nigeria, every officer or public servant wants to create names, appellations and wants showering of encomiums, praises and salutes, wherever he goes. This is highly unfortunate.

The case of the just newly appointed acting IGP, Abubakar, is a case study. Since, his appointment in acting capacity was thinly

supported by few Nigerians, particularly the Christian community, which vehemently and openly opposed his appointment, he had been doing all he could to gain some public supports and confidence.

One of his gambling in achieving his public support and sympathy was his announcement of dismantling police road blocks or check points. He deliberately ordered them dismantled, not necessary for security that such posts or check points provides such as, crime detection, prevention and deterrent, but unwisely to gain public strong praises or supports.

There is no doubt that, his ordering of dismantling of those police road blocks or check points has anything to do with curbing of excessive and it abuses by police officers, but it is very glaring that dismantling of those police road blocks and check points at this period of a total breakdown of law and order, and insecurity would help the country's already worsen situation.

There are reasons and suspicions that, the acting IGP ordered of dismantling of police road blocks or check points has other ulterior motives than curbing abuses and corruption on the high ways. Since the dismantling, the activities of Boko Haramist has increased, there had been more bombings, armed robberies and high crime rates in the country than when these road blocks or check points were mounted.

We hereby called on the new acting IGP to please in the name of patriotism to order the immediate return of these road blocks and check points without further delay. He should stop taken decisions that will aggravate the already worsen security situation in the country and should put the interest of the country and her citizens first, before any other interests. We hope our new IGP is not a Boko Haramist.

May God Almighty bless our great nation,
Nigeria.

Time will tell...

4 days ago 6 Likes

Like Reply



tony

i thought this guy has been annihilated from this forum..in all your postings,you are always looking for a scape goat..someone to blame,someone to pour racial venoms at..why must road blocks return to our roads??does boko haram started with the removal of road blocks??with all the road blocks in the past years of our nations existence,have it curbed crime in anyway???I have been to so many countries and i never seen a country that police put up so many road blocks in one road as in nigeria..road blocks encourage bribery as police men that man such road blocks cannot resist the temptation of collecting 20 naira or is it 50 naira now ?,from every motorist that use the road,.this is an eye sore..it makes the police look dirty and without prestige ..what we should be canvassing for is effective policing..police should adopt the culture of patrolling the neighbourhood rather than sitting in some road..neighbourhood policing should be encouraged and more police post should be build around every neighborhood with enough cars and equipments with a centralized number to contact the police with..this is the way police function in other countries..we cannot be sending officers to over seas to learn nothing..we must start sending them to learn the police cultures of the country they visited and employ such

culture in nigeria..hope the police is reading..

4 days ago

Like Reply

in reply to Ayekoto 1 Like



Odinaka

What a shame to the North!

The South- East created MASSOB but the Igbo elders have been able to moderate the activities of the group; the South -West created OPC but when their elders talk they listen. Elders in the Niger Delta spoke and the protesting youths listened and dropped their arms but the North (with the exception of few states in North -Central) created Boko Haram but unfortunately cannot control them.Ironically, many of them are now afraid of their lives and their properties. Shame!! Yooooooooooooooooo. Soon and very soon, the North will look like Sahara desert.

4 days ago 14 Likes

Like Reply



Ideologue

See? Bros, a partial amnesia and selective sense of history isnt an excuse anymore! It only goes 2 show how shallow some minds are.... OPC killed thousands of Northerners in Lagos in 1994-5 when so called elders were watching until Abatcha decended on them with his military might..MASSOB's kidnaps were curtailed by Obj's JTF led by then Birg. Gen. Bello Sarkin Yaki, MEND were a bunch of criminals (like Ameachi will always say!!) looking for beer money, when 'yar Adua gave them, they melted!!! D same 'yar Adua took on Boko Haram in one week and almost finished them!.... But ur clueless bros Jona is struggling sheepishly to come to terms with d situation after 2yrs... U guys r soooo loud nd empty!!...

4 days ago

Like Reply

in reply to Odinaka 1 Like



greg ilo good enuf for you.

loud and empty remains the reason why your so called nothern elders disregarded their responsibilities and turned themselves into lords that must be worshipped by thousands of Almajiris at their gates waiting for Alhaji to bring food that they eat like chickens. Today these same Almajiris are asking for more unfortunately from the wrong quarters bcos they were told the empty lies that the opposite religion is the cause of their poverty stricken minds and lands. Its a shame to you northerners.

3 days ago

Like Reply

in reply to Ideologue

2 Likes

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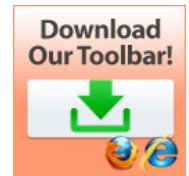
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