

J'aime

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Mon 12 Mar

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10 die in Jos church blast, protests

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By Taye Obateru, Ben Agande, with agency reports

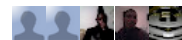
Jos – At least 10 people died yesterday and about 24 injured in a bomb explosion which hit another church in Jos, the Plateau State capital and protests that trailed the blast.

Among the dead were a pregnant woman who was burnt beyond recognition and members of the church's Boy Scouts manning the gate. Two protesting young men were also shot dead by security men in the violence that followed the blast.

The blast went off at Saint Finbarr's Catholic Church located in Rayfield area of Jos not far from the Government House as three suicide bombers in a Volkswagen Vento car attempted to force their way into the church premises.

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is there really anything like

An eye witness said the blast went off at about 10.30 am just as the second service of the church got under way. The suicide bombers accompanied by another on motorbike detonated the bomb when it became obvious that they would not be allowed into the premises.

The impact of the blast which reverberated in many parts of the capital flung the car into the premises of the church, bringing down the church's gate house, the ceiling of the church and smashing the glass windows of the church.

About 25 cars parked within and outside the church premises were damaged while a building opposite the church was also damaged and part of its fence brought down by the impact of the explosion.

Dr Matawwal Bitrus, Medical Director, Plateau Specialist Hospital, Jos, confirmed that the hospital had received the corpses of six victims. Another corpse was said to have been deposited at the morgue of Jos University Teaching Hospital.

The Chief Medical Director, Dr Ishaya Pam, said: "We received 15 casualties from the attack. One of the victims died while 14 sustained various degrees of injuries and are in critical conditions.

"Some sustained varying degrees of burns while three had gunshot wounds. But they are in stable condition and responding to treatment."

On its part, the Red Cross indicated that it had taken 22 people injured in the blast to

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various hospitals in Jos metropolis.

“For now, we have 22 injured at Jos University Teaching Hospital, Plateau Specialist Hospital and Air Force Military Hospital in Jos.



Smoke billows from the protest that followed yesterday's bomb attack at St Finbarr's Parish Rayfield, a Catholic church in Jos. Photo: AFP

“Many of the injured are in critical conditions but they are stable and responding to treatment. But we also note that some of the injured were taken to different hospitals in the metropolis by different people.

“For those ones that were taken to these hospitals by several people mostly, relatives, we are not able to know their actual numbers for now,” Mr Manasseh Pampe, State Chairman of the Red Cross said.

The blast came exactly two weeks after a similar blast at COCIN Headquarters Compound Church generated angry reactions from youths who took to the streets and carried out reprisal attacks of perceived enemies. At least four lives were reportedly lost in the violence.

The angry youths took over the highway in front of the church raining abuses on security men who they accused of serving

no useful purpose since the bombers always pass through their check points undiscovered.

“What is their use if they would subject innocent citizens to inconveniences in the name of checking, yet they don’t discover those who carry explosives to bomb churches”, one of the angry youths asked Vanguard.

Former Vice Chancellor of Plateau State University, Professor John Wade who was in the church during the blast said the casualty figure would have been higher had the attackers succeeded in driving into the church.

He said the tight security at the church was what saved the day. The Catholic Archbishop of Jos, Rt. Rev. Ignatius Kaigama who visited the church described the bombing of churches as evil but said this would not deter Christians from practising their faith.

“This is a practical demonstration of evil; this is diabolical. People want to rob us of our faith. These armed robbers of evil will not succeed in Jesus name. It is a terrible evil, but good will overcome evil.

“Evil has taken place but evil shall not triumph. If anyone thinks that by doing this we will give up our faith, they are mistaken. Our faith will continue to grow” he said.

Archbishop Kaigama who had a hectic time pacifying angry church members urged them not to take the laws into their hands despite the provocation but should instead,

continue to combine faith with reason.

President Jonathan condemns bomb attack

Meanwhile, President Jonathan has urged Nigerians not to despair over the bomb attack as government is winning the war on terrorism.

In a statement issued in Abuja by the president's Special Adviser on Media and Publicity, Dr Reuben Abati, he quoted the president as condemning the attack while conveying his 'heartfelt commiserations to the families of the victims of the bomb attack'.

Part of the statement reads. "President Jonathan reiterates his Administration's total condemnation of this and all other terrorist attacks on innocent Nigerians and reassures all Nigerians and friends of the country that the Federal Government is doing everything possible to end the spate of mindless attacks and killings in parts of the country.

"The President urges Nigerians not to despair or be discouraged by the persistence of the attacks in spite of government's efforts to deal decisively with the menace of terrorism within the country's borders because despite seeming appearances to the contrary, government is indeed winning the war against the terrorists and will continue to progressively destroy their ability to unleash murderous attacks on peaceful, law-abiding Nigerians.

"In this regard, it is worthy of note that in recent weeks national security agencies

have identified and arrested more of these agents of darkness than at any other time. Their hideouts and modus operandi are also being consistently exposed.

“President Jonathan assures all Nigerians that Government will continue to build on these recent successes by our security agencies until terrorism is totally defeated in the country with the support, cooperation and solidarity of all patriotic citizens.

“The President therefore calls on the populace to remain patient and refrain from taking matters into their own hands through actions such as reprisal attacks, as Government continues to take the battle to the merchants of terror and close in on their locations, funding and sponsors” he said.

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shedo4real

Too bad and gruesome. God will bring all into judgement one day. Tears all over my eyes!

2 hours ago

Like Reply



thomas

The islamic zealots have found jobless and uneducated youths to use for their barbaric acts. There is a total breakdown in the social order. Avarice and tribalism has not been helpful to us as a country. Our so

called leaders have failed us woefully. The way forward- let round pegs be in round holes and the problems of this country will be a thing of the past.

2 hours ago

Like Reply



BenAde

@layoo, you painted a grim but a realistic scenario and made some positive exhortation. However, the reality is that the Southerners will never be able to do anything to stem the tide because of individual selfishness and greed.

If you have been following the comments of the opinion leaders in the South they have been parotting that " Nigerias unity is not negotiable" They do this not because they love Nigeria but because they have access to patronage and the looting of the oil wealth.

Do you expect a sitting president to loose all the perks of office he currently enjoys when he is not sure what another political dispensation will bring him? Like you said the North, despite the public facade they present, are united in their common desire to maintain their political hegemony and unlimited access to the oil revenue.

3 hours ago 1 Like

Like Reply



Pius M Ayogu

Gov. Babangida Aliyu the chairman of Northern Novernors Forum in his firm opposition against the 13% allocation given to the niger delta based on derivation has clearly warned that with inequity in revenue allocation there will be no peace in Nigeria. He also warned that the north will not be intimidated! Now the question that comes to my mind when I analyse these statements against the backdrop of security crises in the north is: does the perceived inequity in

revenue allocation as pointed out by Gov Aliyu has any link to Bokoharam insurgence? Put in another way, are the political leaders using the the beastly, devil-inspired islamist terror sect to fight against the so called inequity in the distribution of oil wealth? The attitudes of governors and other leaders from the north towards Bokoharam issue suggest strongly that this is not just a religious war, it is more of economic and political. And as I had said before, no matter the number of Almajiris that we kill or arrest without finding the sponsors of bokoharam the end to the bloodshed will remain elusive.

In one of the meetings preceding independence, Balewa reminded the colonial officials that if not for their intervention the north would have continued their uninterrupted conquest till they dip the Koran in the Atlantic Ocean. Recent evidence and analysis on who controls the greater share of the oil blocks reveal that they have not only dipped the Koran in the Atlantic but have constructed a mosque on it. They want more of the oil wealth and do you know what, they will get it if they are sincere. In the history of Nigerian the north do not lose they only concede. It is very hard for the captive to defeat his captor or for the conquered to defeat the conqueror. Right from the era of slavery and colonisation till date the south are but a conquered people.

3 hours ago

Like Reply



Yemi Ipaye

May God help us

3 hours ago

Like Reply



dedenna

I suggest cars should no longer be packed

in the church premises during services and other church occasions.

3 hours ago 1 Like

Like Reply



abiamone

Say what you like, write what you like, think what you like, it is President Jonathan and his government that must be held responsible for the continued destruction of Nigeria. Let him be presidential in banning all political rallies and elections and impose a state of emergency throughout Nigeria. Nigeria is at war and burning. Yesterday the President told us he was winning the war!

3 hours ago

Like Reply



Larry Malik

Islamic and terror are two inseparable couple, Christians should be alert...we need action to match this threat.

3 hours ago 9 Likes

Like Reply



Ahmed Kogi Yusuf

May their souls rest in peace

4 hours ago 1 Like

Like Reply



bogdawd

The name and activities of Boko Haram stinks..I pray that the Jehovah Lord who visits the sins of the father on to the 4th generation will avenge on behalf of the innocent lives that were lost and may he erase every Boko Haram participant off planet earth. Their seeds/offsprings will dry off as the fig tree Jesus cursed. These I pray in JESUS name.

4 hours ago 5 Likes

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The Hub

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Sweet & Sour

Onochie Anibeze

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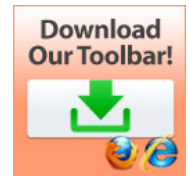
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