

NEWS

Five sect members killed in Biu explosion

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M AIDUGURI—THE Joint Military Task Force (JTF) in Maiduguri, the Borno State capital has said that no fewer than five persons suspected to be members of an Islamic sect

were killed while preparing Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) which exploded yesterday in Biu Local Government Area of the state.

Biu is one of the five council areas affected by the state of emergency declared by President Goodluck

Jonathan in January this year.

Field Operations Officer of the Joint Task Force (JTF) in Borno State, Colonel Victor Ebhaleme, confirmed the incident in a telephone interview from Maiduguri.

He said: "We got information that some terrorists

were planning to invade Maiduguri from Biu town, 187 kilometres away, with a view to causing crisis. This prompted the JTF 331 Battalion in Biu town and the Department of State Security Service to mobilise our men to Biu town where we found pieces of human

parts numbering about five destroyed by Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs)."

Ebhaleme also said "three GPMG, five AK47, nine magazines, 73 rounds of ammunition and some improvised explosive device making materials were recovered from the suspects.

Besides, we were able to arrest two of the suspects while trying to flee the bomb making factory."

He, therefore, urged the general public not to panic but to go about their normal businesses as JTF was on top of the security challenges affecting the state.