

VANGUARD

Nigeria: Female Suicide Bombers Kill 39 in Potiskum, Maiduguri Markets



Photo: Premium Times

The site of a bomb blast in Maiduguri last year (file photo).

A resident of Potiskum, Mallam Aliyu Usman, told Vanguard on phone, yesterday, that the death toll could rise as most of those who sustained injuries died of blood loss due to bleeding before security operatives could reach the scene.

Unconfirmed sources said over 20 people were killed, adding that their mangled bodies were seen at the scene of the blast.

Earlier on Saturday, two people were killed when a car exploded outside a police station in Potiskum.

"We evacuated six bodies including those of the two female suicide bombers to the hospital, 21 people were injured in the attacks.

A security source involved in the rescue operation told AFP of Sunday's bombings: "One of the bombers looked 23 and the other 15.

"The first bomber – the 23 year-old – detonated her explosives just outside the entrance of the market, where volunteers were screening people going to the market with metal detectors.

"The second bomber was terrified by the explosion and she tried to dash across the road but she also exploded."

Both the security official and a nurse at the Potiskum General Hospital said six people were confirmed dead and 21 injured.

Witness Ibrahim Dambam said the second blast went off as people fled the first.

Sunday is Potiskum's market day and attracts traders and shoppers from all over Yobe State and beyond.

Panicked shoppers fled and traders abandoned their stalls at both the mobile phone market and the city's main market, which is just next door.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the latest attacks but suspicion is likely to fall on Boko Haram, which have increasingly used female bombers since last June.

Some security analysts believe that older women may willingly become human bombs as they share the Islamists' radical ideology or are out to avenge loved ones at the hands of the military.

But the young ages of some of the bombers – such as the girl in Maiduguri – and the actions of the 15-year-old in Potiskum suggest that coercion is at play.

A civilian vigilante who witnessed the Maiduguri bombing said of the young bomber: "I doubt if she actually knew what was strapped to her body."

Another eye-witness said it appeared that the bomb was remote-controlled, which chimes with testimony from other attacks across the wider north of Nigeria.

Copyright © 2015 Vanguard. All rights reserved. Distributed by AllAfrica Global Media (allAfrica.com). To contact the copyright holder directly for corrections — or to request permission to republish or make other authorized use of this material, click here.

AllAfrica publishes around 2,000 reports a day from more than 130 news organizations and over 200 other institutions and individuals, representing a diversity of views on every topic. We publish news and views ranging from vigorous opponents of governments to government publications and spokespersons. Publishers named above are responsible for their own content, which AllAfrica does not have the legal right to edit or correct.

Articles and commentaries that identify allAfrica.com as the publisher are produced or commissioned by AllAfrica. To address comments or complaints, please contact the publisher.

Two Course Meal at Bogobiri

From **₦2,880**

Get it Now



AllAfrica is a voice of, by and about Africa - aggregating, producing and distributing 2000 news and information items daily from over 130 African news organizations and our own reporters to an African and global public. We operate from Cape Town, Dakar, Lagos, Monrovia, Nairobi and Washington DC.

© 2015 AllAfrica // [Privacy](#) // [Contact](#)

AllAfrica - All the Time