

7-year-old female suicide bomber kills 5, injures 19 in Potiskum

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ABUJA— A seven-year-old girl, yesterday, killed herself and five others in a suicide bombing in Potiskum, Yobe State.



This came on day the Nigerian defence headquarters said the Nigerian troops fighting the insurgent group, Boko Haram, have reclaimed the town of Baga and other surrounding communities in Borno state after days of fierce fighting.

The suicide attack on a market in the city of Potiskum is the latest in a string of suicide strikes in which children have been used.

Nineteen people were injured in the blast in Yobe State's commercial capital, a vigilante leader, Mr Buba Lawan, told AFP.

"So far, five people were killed with the girl while 19 others have been taken to hospital for injuries," Buba Lawan said. A hospital source speaking on condition of anonymity confirmed the dead and the wounded count.

Yesterday's bombing in Potiskum was the second suicide attack in or near the market where new and second-hand phones are sold and repaired.

The first attack occurred January 11, when two suicide bombers — one of whom appeared to be around 15 — blew themselves up outside the market killing six people and injuring 37 others.

Before yesterday's strike, suspicious security guards and vigilantes said they tried to prevent the girl, who witnesses said appeared around seven, from entering the market.

According to Lawan, "we sent her back four times, because given her age, she did not have anything to do in the