

18 killed in Makurdi cult clash, Borno village bomb blast

By Ndahi Marama & Peter Duru

No fewer than 10 persons were killed in a rival cult clash that erupted Sunday evening in Akpehe area of Makurdi, the Benue State capital, while eight persons were killed with three others sustaining injuries when an improvised explosive device planted by suspected Boko Haram terrorists in Gamboru Ngala Local Government Area of Borno State, exploded.

In Akpehe, it was gathered from eyewitnesses that the clash, which started about 7:30p.m., reportedly left several others injured.

The Police confirmed that four persons were killed and some others injured in the incident.

According to the source, the clash might not be unconnected with Wednesday's killing of a youth leader, Raphael Ikyav, popularly known as Spanner, who was attacked and killed in his shop by armed men in the same Akpehe.

He said: "Some armed youths about 7:30p.m., stormed one of the drinking spots on Akpehe road where many young men used to gather to drink in the evenings. They got there and opened fire on them, killing about 10 of them and injuring several others, who were either shot or macheted.

"It was like what you watch in the movies, people were running for their lives, some with bullet and machet wounds. The incident is somewhat connected to the attack on the youth leader, who was stabbed to death on Wednesday."

Confirming the incident, the state Police Command in a statement by its Public Relations Officer, Catherine Anene, said: "The suspected cult attack at Akpehe is confirmed and investigation has commenced. Four persons were confirmed dead while others are currently receiving treatment at the hospital.

"The state Police Commissioner, Emenari Ifeanyi, warns hoodlums greeting him with crime to desist from such acts as he will not tolerate crime under his watch."

18 killed in Borno village bomb blast

This is coming barely 24 hours when Boko Haram terrorists killed two members of Civilian Joint Task Force and 10 firewood scavengers in Gwoza Local Government Area of Borno State.

It was gathered that the explosion

happened about 11a.m., when some vehicles travelling from Rann, headquarters of Kala-Balge to

Why I didn't report Ataga's death to police — Chidinma

By Henry Ojelu

LAGOS—A 300-level University of Lagos student, Chidinma Ojukwu, standing trial for the alleged murder of Super TV Chief Executive Officer, CEO, Michael Usifo Ataga, yesterday told a Lagos State High Court that fear prevented her from reporting the incident to the police.

"I was scared," she said while continuing her defence before Justice Yetunde Adesanya at Tafawa Balewa Square.

Chidinma testified that she had read stories where people who reported crimes ended up being accused.

"I thought of calling the gateman again because I had called him while at the staircase of the apartment, but I ended the call immediately because I was scared," she said.

Narrating her activities on June 16, 2021, she said: "I was going through my phone on WhatsApp and noticed that the message I sent to Michael had been read and he appeared online. I called his number several times, but the calls were declined. I became confused."

She said she contacted a man called Abu, who operated the generator and water pump at the

Gamboru Ngala stumbled on the IEDs.

Sources revealed that the exact location was near Furunduma, 11 kilometres from Rann.

"The victims include women and

children, but some said, over 20 people were killed, with several others injured," a source said.

Efforts to get confirmation from the Police Public Relations Officer, Kenneth Daso was unsuccessful at press time.

shortlet, asking about Michael.

"That man way I come with, you don see am yesterday?" she said she asked.

Abu reportedly replied, "I see am yesterday, him drive comot," but later, the gateman informed her that Ataga's car was still on the premises.

Chidinma said she became worried and sent Michael a WhatsApp message, saying: "Please Michael, forgive me. I didn't mean to leave you in that state. I was very scared. After sending that message, I discovered I had been blocked."

The defendant narrated that on June 19, 2021, she sent SMS to Ataga due to poor WhatsApp network delivery.

She also recalled giving her iPhone 7 Plus to her sister, Chioma, on June 22, after Chioma claimed she had misplaced her phone.

Chidinma narrated to the court she was arrested by four or five policemen on June 23, 2021.

"When I said I didn't have anything belonging to the deceased, one of the policemen slapped me," she claimed. She added that her father intervened, but they were both taken to the police station.

She stated that at Panti, she was

handcuffed to a seat and forced to write a statement without legal representation.

"I said, 'Sir, I know my rights, a lawyer should be present.' Bamidele said, 'There's no lawyer coming for you,' and I was slapped from behind."

Chidinma said the officer threatened her, saying: "If you love your family, you better comply. Otherwise, your dad, your sister, even your 10-year-old sister will be detained too."

Out of fear, she said she wrote a statement, but it was torn apart by the officer for being "nonsense."

She claimed that the investigating officer showed her photos of Ataga's body, a rope and chats purportedly with the apartment owner.

"He showed me a rope and said I used it to tie Michael. I said, 'No sir, he is too huge for me to tie,'" she said.

The defendant said officers also brought out her bank documents and ID cards during the investigation. "When they asked about my UNILAG ID card, I said I am a student of the University of Lagos," she added.

Justice Yetunde Adesanya adjourned the case to today for the continuation of the trial.

Woman arrested for poisoning 65-yr-old man

By Efe Onodjao

THE Lagos State Police Command has arrested a 35-year-old woman, Mrs. Adeola Adewale, for allegedly poisoning 65-year-old, Mr. Adebayo to death in a service apartment in the Abule-Egba area of the state.

A statement by the command's spokesperson, Mr. Benjamin Hundeyin, said: "The Lagos State Police Command has recorded a significant breakthrough in the investigation of a recent homicide case reported at the Oko-Oba Division.

"On March 29, 2025, the command received a report of the murder of an unidentified man at a service apartment in the Abule Egba area. Preliminary investigations revealed that on March 27, 2025, about 5:20p.m., an unidentified female, in the company of the deceased, rented a service apartment.

"A few hours later, she left the premises with the deceased's car and personal belongings, informing the housekeeper that she would return shortly.

"However, during a routine check on March 28, 2025, the lifeless body of the

male victim was discovered in the apartment. At the scene, investigators recovered an empty syringe, two empty cans of malt drink and two bottles of water.

"The body was, subsequently, evacuated and deposited at the Lagos State University Teaching Hospital, LASUTH, mortuary for autopsy, while an intensive investigation began to locate the fleeing suspect.

"Following detailed and painstaking investigation by operatives of the State Criminal Investigation Department, SCID, the