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Nigeria: Suicide Bomber Attacks Muslim Prayer Ground



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Bomb blast scene in Maiduguri (file photo)

A suicide bomber on Friday, attacked a praying ground at the Palace of the Shehu of Borno, killing at least five.

The Shehu of Borno, Abubakar bin Umar Gabai Elkanemi, and the deputy governor of the state, Alhaji Zanna Umar Mustapha who were the primary targets however escaped the blast unhurt. The explosion reportedly injured the ward head of Galtimari, Alhaji Lawan Makinta, and some children in the Shehu's entourage.

Hundreds of worshippers use the palace of the Shehu of Borno as a praying ground for their Friday prayers.

LEADERSHIP gathered that the explosion occurred as the Shehu was being escorted to the palace after Friday prayers.

A young boy reported to be of about the age of 15 was noticed walking towards the two dignitaries in a suspicious manner. However, the security men attached to the dignitaries took note and shielded the dignitaries from him. But the bomb went off, killing at least 10 other people in the vicinity and critically wounding two of the soldiers.

The Deputy Governor confirmed that the suicide bomber was a young boy who was targeting him and the Shehu of Borno. He says neither of them were hurt in the blast.

Although eyewitnesses said no fewer than ten persons were killed in the attack, the Field Operations Officer of the Joint Task Force, Victor Ebhaleme told the Associated Press that five persons were killed and six others injured.

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