



**Nigeria – Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 5 December 2012**

**Information required on the bombing of a Pentecostal church in Bauchi State on 03/06/2012? (Possibly in the Yewaltundu Ward district, name of church not available).**

There are numerous reports of a car bomb attack on the Living Faith and Harvest Field of Christ churches in the Yelwa Tudu area of Bauchi on 3 June 2012.

An Associated Press report states:

“A suspected car bomb exploded near a church Sunday morning in north Nigeria, wounding at least 33 people and likely killing others, officials said. The blast happened around a car near a church called Living Faith in a neighborhood of Bauchi, the capital of Bauchi state. An initial report from the Nigerian Red Cross in Bauchi said at least 33 people had been wounded and taken to local hospitals.” (Associated Press (3 June 2012) *Explosion strikes near north Nigeria church*)

An article originally published by the Abuja-based newspaper Daily Trust states:

“Nine people have been killed and 53 others injured in an attack against Harvest Field Church of Christ near Living Faith Church in Yelwa area, a suburb of Bauchi metropolis in Bauchi state.” (Daily Trust (3 June 2012) *Suicide Bomber, Eight Others Killed in Bauchi Church Attack*)

A report from the Abuja-based newspaper Leadership gives a higher estimate of casualties as follows:

“No fewer than 15 people were killed and over 42 seriously injured yesterday after a bomb blast which occurred at the Harvest Field Church of Christ in Yelwa area of Bauchi metropolis in Bauchi State. Confirming the incident, the chairman of the state emergency operation team, Muhanad Inuwa Bello, told LEADERSHIP that the explosion happened at about 9:15 in the morning. He said the injured victims were taken to Abubakar Tafawa Ballewa Teaching Hospital (ATBUTH) for medical attention, while the dead bodies had been deposited in the mortuary. According to him, no one has claimed responsibility, but it is suspected that the suspect died while planting the explosive. A suicide bomber riding in a Honda Civic car was said to have attempted to force his way into Living Faith Church, Yelwa, hitting a barricade.” (Leadership (4 June 2012) *Suicide Bombers Kill 15, Injure 43 in Bauchi Churches*)

A BBC News report states:

“According to Bauchi residents, a man tried to drive a car through a fence outside the Harvest Field Pentecostal church on Sunday. The vehicle did not break through the fence and the bomb was detonated. Some of those killed by the blast were inside the church and others were standing outside. Eyewitness Aliku Jon told Reuters news agency: ‘I had just left after the morning service and was out of the church when I heard a loud explosion. I rushed back and there were dozens of people lying in pools of blood.’ Some residents told Reuters they had counted 12 bodies, but police put the death toll at 10.” (BBC News (3 June 2012) *Deadly blast hits Nigeria church*)

An article from the UK newspaper The Telegraph states:

“At least 15 people were killed and dozens wounded when a suicide car bomber drove into a Nigerian church compound and detonated his explosives as worshippers left an early morning service. The bomber targeted the Living Faith church, in a neighbourhood near the airport in Bauchi, the capital of northern Bauchi state. The timed blast caught many people outside the church without any cover to protect themselves from the explosion, causing heavy casualties, witnesses said. At least eight people were killed in the blast, as well as the bomber, Bauchi state police commissioner Mohammed Ladan said. He said security personnel stationed near the churches stopped the car from getting any closer to worshippers than it did. More than 40 people suffered injuries in the blast, the Nigerian Red Cross said.” (The Telegraph (3 June 2012) *15 killed and dozens wounded in Nigerian church attack*)

A Voice of America News report states:

“Nigerian officials say the bombing of a church in Bauchi State has killed 15 people and wounded 42. The chairman of the state emergency operations team, Muhammad Inuwa Bello, says a suicide bomber attacked the Living Faith Church outside the state capital Sunday morning, but the agency cannot yet comment on who it thinks was responsible. Witnesses say the church collapsed after the blast, trapping worshippers, killing civilians and security personnel, and leaving others with gruesome injuries.” (Voice of America News (3 June 2012) *Church Bombing Kills 15 in Nigeria*)

An Agence France Presse report states:

“Bauchi's State Emergency Management Agency said in a statement that it found 15 dead bodies at the blast site and evacuated 40 injured people to a nearby hospital, adding that the area around the church had been cordoned off by police. Witnesses said the force of the blast near the Harvest Field of Christ church on the outskirts of Bauchi city caused the building to collapse on the worshippers inside. Residents said that when the building came down, some fled outside seeking refuge, but ran into a raging fire. ‘There was confusion as residents and churchgoers tried to flee. Some of them out of fright fell into the fire caused by the explosion,’ said resident Timothy Joshua.” (Agence France Presse (3 June 2012) *Suicide blast at church in northern Nigeria kills 15*)

A Christian Solidarity Worldwide report states:

“At least 18 people died and 32 were wounded yesterday in a suicide bomb attack by Boko Haram that targeted two churches in Bauchi State, north east Nigeria. The bombing reportedly occurred just as the congregation of Living Faith Church in Yelwa Tudun, Bauchi city was leaving the service. However, the casualties came primarily from the neighbouring church, Harvest Field Church for Christ, which bore the brunt of the explosion. Twelve cars and a number of buildings were also reported to have been destroyed by the blast.” (Christian Solidarity Worldwide (4 June 2012) *Nigeria: Two churches targeted in Bauchi State*)

A report from the Lagos-based newspaper This Day states:

“Following the bomb attacks which occurred at the Living Faith Church Worldwide (aka Winners' Chapel) and the Harvest Field Church in Yelwa area of Bauchi State, the state chapter of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) has confirmed that 21 people were killed, while 45 others sustained varying degrees of injuries during the bomb incident.” (This Day (5 June 2012) *Nigeria: CAN Confirms 21 Dead, 45 Injured in Bauchi Bomb Attacks*)

An article from the Lagos-based newspaper Vanguard states:

“It was indeed a day of pain, grief and lamentation for Christian worshippers and residents of Yelwa Tudun community, a suburb of Bauchi State. For many, last Sunday was a black and bloody one following a bomb attack at the Living Faith and Harvest of Field church. Oblivious of the tragedy waiting to happen that fateful morning, most Christians thronged their usual places of worship for Sunday service at the ever-busy Yelwa Tudun area. Again, based on the increased presence of security operatives deployed in the area to forestall possible attack arising from an earlier security alert, nobody envisaged that a suicide bomber could penetrate the supposedly secured area to carry out a successful attack. The unfortunate incident which claimed the lives of 21 persons and injured 45 others, occurred at around 9.30 in the morning after the close of the first service at the Living Faith Church.” (Vanguard (7 June 2012) *How suicide bomber killed 21, injured 45 on bloody Sunday*)

See also Vanguard article which attributes this attack to Boko Haram as follows:

“Islamist sect, Boko Haram, has claimed responsibility for Sunday's suicide attack in Bauchi State where a Church was bombed, killing about 21 worshippers with 45 others sustaining various degrees of injuries, even as it also re-emphasised its earlier warning to the media to desist from under-reporting its activities or face devastating attacks.” (Vanguard (4 June 2012) *Bauchi Church bombing: We did it, says Boko Haram*)

An article from the Lagos-based newspaper The Nation refers to allegations made by the Christian Association of Nigeria as follows:

“The Bauchi State chapter of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), yesterday alleged that 20 people died and 45 were injured in the suicide bombing which occurred on Sunday at the Harvest Field Church, Yelwa, a suburb of Bauchi, the state capital. At a press conference in Bauchi, the state's chairman of CAN, Rev. Lawi Pokti, alleged: ‘Twenty Christians and a

Muslim have been confirmed dead. Twelve died from the bomb blast while eight were shot dead by the military personnel drafted to the scene to maintain law and order.' "(The Nation (5 June 2012) *Harvest Field Church bombing: 20 dead, 45 injured, CAN alleges*)

This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research and Information Unit within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

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