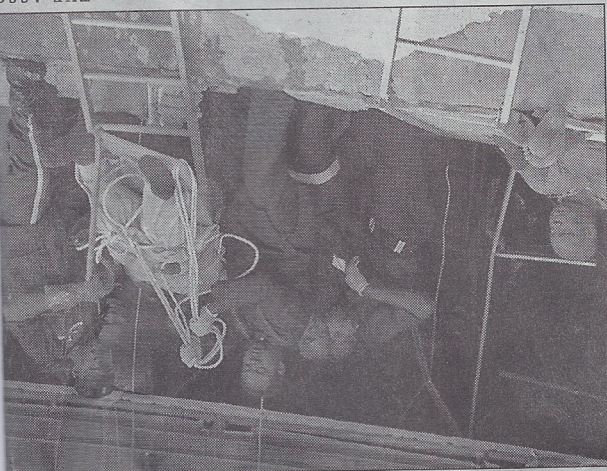


# 18 killed in bombing of U.N. compound



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## HOW TO CONT

Newsroom

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More contact information

Co

If you have a question or  
206-464-3310, or e-mail

NWFRIDAY: Two employees

pany were misidentified

over development at Cer

lot. David Postman and I

First & Goal. Allen owns

WEEKEND PLUS: Mike Ro

Belltown. His name was

Friday.

## Subscriptions, deliv

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deadliest attacks on the

United Nations in a decade.

Seventeen U.N. civilian

staff members were killed

along with dozens of others

in two car bombings that

targeted U.N. and other

premises in Algiers on Dec.

11, 2007.

Friday's bombing also

came just days after the

U.N. marked the anniversa-

ry of the Aug. 19, 2003,

bombing of U.N. headquar-

ters in Baghdad that killed

15 U.N. employees, includ-

ing top envoy Sergio Vieira

de Mello and seven others.

Friday's attack punched a

huge hole in the building,

which is in the same neigh-

borhood as the U.S. Embas-

sy and other diplomatic

posts in Abuja.

"This is getting out of

hand," said a U.N. em-

ployee who identified him-

self as Bodunrin. "If they

can get into the U.N. House,

they can reach anywhere."

Nigerian President Goo-

luck Jonathan's office

called the attack "barbaric,

senseless and cowardly."

The statement also prom-

ised to increase security in

the nation's capital.

However, Jonathan's ad-

BY BASHIR ADIGUN  
AND JON GAMBRELL  
The Associated Press

ABUJA, Nigeria — A car  
loaded with explosives  
crashed into the main United  
Nations building in Nigeria's  
capital, Abuja, and exploded  
Friday, killing at least 18  
people.

A radical Muslim sect

blamed for a series of attacks

in the country claimed re-

sponsibility for the bombing.

a major escalation of its sec-

tarian fight against Nigeria's

weak central government.

The assault in a neighbor-

hood surrounded by heavily

fortified diplomatic posts

represented the first suicide

attack to target foreigners in

oil-rich Nigeria, where peo-

ple already live in fear of the

targeted U.N. and other

premises in Algiers on Dec.

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the nation's capital.

However, Jonathan's ad-

ministraton has struggled

to improve security in Ni-

geria, a nation of 150 mil-

lion largely split between a

Christian south and Muslim

north. The April election of

Jonathan, a Christian, trig-

gered religious and ethnic

violence, with offices

as U.N. House, had offices

The headquarters, known

major Abuja hospitals.

survey of morgues at four

the attack, according to a

At least 18 people died in

said.

agency Management Agency

the Nigerian National Emer-

explosives, a spokesman for

tion area and detonated the

glass front of the main recep-

drove the car through the

The suicide bomber inside

it, witnesses said.

Friday as guards tried to stop

United Nations compound

two gates at the exit of the

plosives crashed through

A sedan loaded with ex-

looked at the bomb site.

foreign minister, as she

Onwuliri, a junior Nigerian

al community," said Viola

"It is an attack on the glob-

and ethnicity.

tion often divided by religion

seems to be a target in a na-

ram's rage, now everyone

borne the brunt of Boko Ha-

local officials have primarily

While police officers and

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Western education and cul-

vehemently opposed to

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al-Qaida, wants to imple-

which has reported links to

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ABUJA, Nigeria — A car

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ABUJA, Nigeria — A car

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