

Borno ANPP chairman in duel with gunmen

● *Guard killed*
Gunmen numbering about 20, attacked the residence of the caretaker chairman of the All Nigeria People's Party (ANPP), in Borno state, Alhaji Mohammed Imam, Tuesday morning, killing his security guard.

The gunmen believed to be hired assassins, broke into the residence of the ANPP leader at about 2.30 am after subduing his security guard who tried to stop them from getting into the residence.

Daily Trust gathered that

**From Abdullahi Bego,
Maiduguri**

the gunmen shot the security guard several times before heading for the main flat where the chairman was sleeping.

In a chat with newsmen in Maiduguri yesterday, Alhaji Mohammed Imam said it was a guest of his from Kano living in another block within the residence who first alerted him that the gunmen had entered the residence.

He said he was sleeping on a settee in the living room

Cont. on Pg. 4

Borno *Cont. from pg. 1*

but managed to switch off the lights when shots were fired at his direction.

The chairman said that he avoided the gun shots by quickly descending to the floor and moving into his bedroom.

Alhaji Mohammed Imam added that from his room, he took out an already loaded personal gun and began to fire back at the gunmen.

In the ensuing gun battle between him and the attackers, Imam said he succeeded in hitting two of them, as according to him, one of the assailants was crying "I have been hit."

The shots from the chairman apparently forced the attackers to retreat from the house, shooting severally into the air around the neighbourhood as they escaped.

The assailants were said to have taken their member who was hit, but later dumped his body when he died before they could escape from the area.

Our correspondent gathered from police sources who confirmed the incidence, that one of the assailants hit by the chairman might have died, as the police found a corpse around the area of the attack later in the morning.

Police public relations officer, ASP Bashir Mohammed, told *Daily Trust* that a team of uniformed and plain clothed detectives deployed to the area after they got wind of the attack found a corpse, assumed to be one of the assailants.

ASP Mohammed said the police have opened investigations into the attack and hope to unravel those behind

it soon.

The ANPP chairman also said the attackers could be hired assassins because later in the morning, some neighbours who were awoken by their movement around his residence told him that they heard the attackers tell each other the physical description of the chairman.

Imam added that when the assailants entered his living room, they also did not ask of anything but just began shooting, as if aiming to take his life.

This is the second such attack on senior functionaries of the ANPP-led Borno state government. Last month, the state's Commissioner of Poverty Alleviation and Youth Empowerment, Alhaji Abdurrahman Terab, was attacked in his residence by gunmen who reportedly extorted money from him.