

Police inspector killed on Sallah Day in Maiguguri

From Hamza Idris, Maiduguri

SOME gunmen yesterday trailed a police inspector and killed him while on his way back from Eid prayer ground in Maiduguri.

The killing took place

amidst tight security mounted by members of the Joint Task Force following last Friday's deadly attacks in the state capital.

The incident took place in the London Ciki area of Maiduguri metropolis

around 10am when thousands of worshippers were trooping back home from various Eid grounds.

Witnesses said the gunmen drove in an unmarked Honda 86 model salon car and intercepted the police

inspector who was driving in company of his friends and acquaintances.

"From the look of things, the gunmen know the deceased very well because though there are many people moving along

with him, they singled him out and shot at him severally before they fled," Baba Bay, a resident of London Ciki said.

He said there was pandemonium at the scene

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of the killing and that the sound of gunshots soon attracted the attention of members of the Joint Task Force who had intensified surveillance in the state capital.

"The JTF operatives pursued the assailants who had already raced away from the scene. They later abandoned the car and disappeared through some narrow pathways," Mallam Gana, a friend of the deceased said.

Borno State police commissioner Simeon Midenda confirmed that an inspector was killed but did not reveal his name.

"Yes, we lost one of our officers. He was actually not on duty and he was in plain cloth when the gunmen trailed and killed him while he was about reaching his house from the mosque," Midenda said.

"Apart from the killing of the inspector, there was no any other attack. The Sallah celebration was generally peaceful because with the help of God, we have intensified surveillance," he said.

Gunmen ordered the family away, then shot the inspector to death, Midenda said.

The sect members later

allowed his family to drive the car away, he said.

"Our men who live in the midst of the Boko Haram are not safe," Midenda said.

Meanwhile it was learnt yesterday that PROFESSOR Murtala Aliyu, the Provost of the Federal College of Veterinary Research Institute, Vom in Plateau State was among the over the over 100 people that were killed in Damaturu, Yobe State during the last Friday's serial attacks launched by members of the Jama'atu Ahlis Sunnati Lidda'awati Wal Jihad, also known as Boko Haram.

The brother of the deceased, Mahmud Aliyu, a lecturer at Modibo Adama University of Technology Yola confirmed to our correspondent on phone yesterday that his brother was killed in Damaturu.

"The professor was on his way to Maiduguri to celebrate the Sallah with his family when he was caught in the midst of the crises around 7pm in Damaturu," Mahmud said.

He said Late Professor Murtala Aliyu was on secondment in Vom. "He was a lecturer at the Department of Veterinary Medicine, University of Maiduguri

before he went to Vom," he said.

Our correspondent reports that the commissioner of police in Yobe State Suleimon Mamman had earlier confirmed that a professor was among the 53 people that were killed in Damaturu.

Meanwhile, members of the Boko Haram yesterday denied claims by the Yobe police boss that 7 suicide bombers died in the multiple attacks in Damaturu.

Spokesman of the group Abul-Qaqa who spoke on phone also denied the figures given by the spokesman of the JTF in Borno State Lieutenant Colonel Hassan Mohammed that five suicide bombers also died in the Friday's attacks in Maiduguri.

"We want to put the records straight. We only registered two martyrs in all the attacks we launched on Friday. We lost only one person in Maiduguri. He was the one that bombed the JTF headquarters. The other one was the martyr that bombed the two story building of the police in Damaturu," he said.

Abul-Qaqa added that their men had successfully hit all the areas they targeted. "It is not true that we lost about twelve people on Friday," he said.