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[ACP, 45 others feared dead in Damaturu, Maiduguri mayhem](#)

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Members of the Boko Haram sect yesterday took their assault to a higher profile by assassinating the Assistant Commissioner of Police in charge of operations in Yobe State, Ibrahim Abubakar, and the Officer in Charge of MOPOL, Superintendent Kabiru Musa in an orgy of violence that lasted over 30 hours. The Commissioner of Police, Lawal Tanko confirmed that the senior officers were missing since yesterday but cannot ascertain whether they are dead. A senior security officer confirmed that members of the Boko Haram had waylaid the Assistant Commissioner and the OC MOPOL, but declined to give details. Aversion of the story has it that the officers were killed in the morning yesterday during a confrontation between Boko Haram members and security forces at Pompomari. The second says they were waylaid in their homes shortly after Friday prayers.

But spokesman of Boko Haram, Abul Qaqa, told Weekly Trust on phone last night that they carefully targeted the senior officers and killed them. "We are responsible for the attacks in Damaturu, Potiskum and Maiduguri and we will continue doing what we are doing," he said.

Qaqa said they took up arms to avenge the killings of their brethren in Maiduguri, Bauchi and Potiskum in 2009.

At least nineteen corpses of military and police men as well as civilians have been deposited at the Sani Abacha Specialist Hospital, Damaturu between Thursday and yesterday, a senior official at the hospital said. In Potiskum, four policemen and a civilian were killed on Thursday night when members of the sect attempted to bomb the divisional police officer in the area.

Many people have been hit by stray bullets in Damaturu and Potiskum and are now receiving treatment in various hospitals. Shootings in Damaturu continued till around 4pm yesterday when the federal government deployed hundreds of soldiers and policemen from Maiduguri, Nguru, Biu and Bauchi states. "I cannot tell you the number of people that lost their lives until we receive clearance from the force headquarters," the police commissioner said.

Following the two days of the continued violence, Governor Ibrahim Gaidam yesterday approved a dusk to dawn curfew through the state. "The restriction of movement begins Friday, December 23, 2011 from 7:00pm to 7:00am daily," Special Adviser to the Governor on Information Affairs, Mallam Abdullahi Bego said in a press statement. "Security agencies and the state government are doing everything necessary to ensure law and order and protection of lives and properties in the state," said the statement.

Chief of Army Staff, Lieutenant-General Azubuike Ihejirika said, while inspecting Guard Brigade troops in Abuja, that soldiers have destroyed the main weapons store of Boko Haram in Damaturu Thursday night. But the sect members resisted the soldiers with heavy fire power. "The sect members confronted the soldiers with heavy artillery and the assault lasted for long. In the process 3 soldiers were killed and 7 others were injured as at today (Friday) in the morning. About 50 Boko Haram members were killed in the encounter."

The army chief said security forces have intercepted information on the sect's plans to wreak havoc in Abuja during the Christmas and New Year festivities and the newly formed 'quick response' troops were placed on standby.