

JTF foils *Boko Haram* attack in Borno, kills suspect

From **Njadvura Musa, Maiduguri**

MEN of the Joint Task Force (JTF) in Maiduguri, the Borno State capital, yesterday clashed with a gang of five terrorists at the Budum Roundabout in the metropolis, killing one suspect, arresting two and injuring two while attempting to flee on their tricycle at about 11.15 a.m. yesterday.

Meanwhile, amid protests by clerics and youths over insecurity in Yobe State, Governor Ibrahim Gaidam has urged the JTF and other security agencies to ensure safety of

lives and property, adding that men of the task force should "do more" to check activities of gunmen that recently killed 163 in Potiskum.

The terrorists in Borno, according to an eyewitness, had targeted the military post at the roundabout before the soldiers in a patrol vehicle engaged them for about five minutes and killed one.

Spokesman of JTF, Lt-Col Sagir Musa, in a statement yesterday in Maiduguri, said: "The JTF today (yesterday) at about 11.15 a.m. successfully

repelled suspected *Boko Haram* attacks at one of its posts," adding that no casualties on either the task force or civilians.

Authorities of the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital (UMTH), at its Emergency and Accident Unit (EMAU), however, said two soldiers were brought to the hospital for treatment of injuries they sustained in the Bundum roundabout clash.

The EMAU attendant also told *The Guardian* that the two wounded soldiers were brought to the hospital in one of the *Hilux* vehicles at about 12.35 p.m.

On whether arrests were made, the spokesman said "apart from making two arrests of the terrorists, we were able to recover one locally made pistol and the tricycle used by the terrorists. No soldier or civilian was killed or injured throughout the less than five minutes encounter."

Governor Gaidam in a statement by his Special Adviser on Public Affairs and Information, Abdullahi Bego, said the troops and the policemen deployed to Yobe State should rise to the challenges of insecurity and the *Boko Haram* insurgency in the North.

The statement read in part: "I want to call on our security and intelligence personnel to do more and to carry out more intelligence operations to fish out the suspected criminals that continue to unleash terror and violence in the state."

Abdullahi Bego's kidnap, threaten strike

the kidnappers are demanding N50 million as ransom before releasing her.

The doctors who sent their grievances to the House of Assembly warned that if within the next 48 hours the woman was not released, they would embark on indefinite strike.

Chairman of the state branch of the NMA, Dr. Adewunmi Alayaki, who led the demonstrators, urged the government to wade into the matter and ensure immediate release of the woman.

Adewunmi, who blamed the incident on recent publication of doctors' salaries by the Lagos State government, noted that the Otulana's abductors asked her to pay the N50 million ransom

from her salary in advance.

According to him, "she (Otulana) called the family members to tell them what she was going through and that they were asking her to obtain her salary in advance to give them. That is why we are saying no and that we don't want that incident to continue. This is a woman and we never can tell what might have happened to her."

He added: "If in the next 48 hours we cannot secure release of this woman, we cannot guarantee the issue of service in the state because injustice to one is injustice to all, and because of that we want this woman to be released in the next 48 hours."