

Gunmen kill prisons officer in Borno

From Hamza Idris, Maiduguri.

USMAN Laskarima, an Assistant Comptroller of Prisons with the prison service in Borno State, was killed in Maiduguri on Sunday.

Witnesses said Laskarima died as a result of gunshots when some unidentified gunmen attacked him while chatting with his friends at a spot close

to his house at Budum area of Maiduguri metropolis.

A resident, Umar Ali, said, "The late assistant comptroller was trailed by three people who hid their rifles under their cloth. He was the only one that was

Attacked, even though there are other people around," he said.

"I think he was their only target...

he was shot in the head and neck around 1pm and the attackers simply walked away as we all fled the scene of the ensuing confusion".

A senior official of the Joint Task Force (JTF) in Borno State, who confirmed the killing of the prisons officer, said in the early hours of yesterday, "a cordon and search operation" was carried out at London Ciki

and Gwange, two areas that have remained an epicenter of violence in the last two years.

"During the search, two gunmen suspected to have shot the assistant prisons comptroller were killed and five suspects arrested as a result of the operation. Two locally made pistols were also recovered," the officer, who does not want to be named, said.