

Gunmen kill ex-councilor, 5 others in Kano

From Lawan Danjuma Adamu, Kano

GUNMEN on Saturday night stormed Kurna Asabe area of Kano metropolis and killed a former local government councilor, a lady and a teenager.

The attackers invaded the area shortly before 9pm, throwing explosives and firing guns, causing panic among residents, *Daily Trust* gathered.

The attack, which was the first by gunmen in the area, was precipitated by arrest of a suspected gunman last week Tuesday by people in the area, according to residents.

It was learnt that residents had apprehended an injured man carrying a gun and handed him over to security forces, on the suspicion that he was fleeing from

security men after participating in coordinated attacks on security formations earlier in the day.

According to eyewitnesses, the ex-councilor, Alhaji Husaini Adamu, was trailed to his residence at Shago Tara and shot while sitting outside with friends. After killing him, the attackers threw an explosive into his house, causing substantial damage to its façade.

"We were seated here when a man came and shot him at close range," said the deceased's friend who does not want to be named. "The sound of the gunshot and subsequent explosion inside his house forced us to scatter in different direction. He already died, when we returned later," he said.

A woman was killed yesterday behind NNPC depot in Hotoro,

when gunmen ambushed a motorcycle conveying her and her husband home. Her husband was reportedly injured in the attack.

Another young woman and a boy were also killed in Saturday's attack at Durumi, eyewitnesses said, adding that the duo were buried yesterday morning. One of the people who observed burial rites on the victims said the boy was about 13 years. He further explained that the lady was shot while walking along an alley.

"We deposited her corpse in one of the houses and buried her this morning," he said.

Residents told our correspondent that the attackers were heard justifying the raid, saying "you the people of Kurna have invited our wrath upon yourselves; therefore blame no one but yourselves."

But in letters said to be circulated during the attack, the gunmen reportedly claimed that whoever was killed that night must have committed an act that warranted the punishment.

People have started expressing fears about the said threat, as many shops and houses were under lock and key in the area yesterday. Most of the owners, it was gathered, had temporarily relocated.

"We are now living in fear, because the letter they dropped indicted all of us in this area," said a neighbour of the slain ex-councilor.

Also on Saturday, gunmen shot dead a police inspector and his mechanic at Sheka area of Kano. Eyewitnesses said the gunmen had trailed the policemen to a

place where his vehicle was being test-run, before opening fire on him alongside the mechanic.

Confirming the attacks, Kano Police Command Public Relations Officer, DSP Rilwanu Muhammad Dutse, said when policemen arrived at the scene of the attack in Kurna Asabe, the ex-councilor had already been killed.

He also said the police officer was killed together with his mechanic, when the latter was trying to fix the officer's faulty car.

The PPRO said three persons sustained gunshot wounds in the Kurna attack, adding that one woman was killed and another one injured in the attack in Hotoro on Sunday. "The attackers took away a motorcycle," he said.