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Nigeria: District Head Gunned Down in Maiduguri

BY HAMZA IDRIS, 15 OCTOBER 2012

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Maiduguri — Gunmen suspected to be members of the Boko Haram sect yesterday killed Alhaji Mala Kaka, the Shettima Kanurebe and district head of Gwange in Maiduguri metropolis.

Security sources and witnesses said the prominent traditional ruler was shot severally in the head and chest while attending to a guest in his house in Fezzan, a densely populated area not far from the Shehu's palace in Maiduguri.

The guest was also shot but did not die, witnesses said.

"We have received the report of the killing of the traditional ruler and we have launched investigation," a senior security official said. "We are on the trail of the assailants and we would surely get them," he said.

It was gathered that the guest (names withheld) is a brother-in-law of former minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Engineer Abba Gana.

"The Shettima Kanurebe died instantly but the guest was lucky; he escaped by the whiskers even though he also sustained life threatening gun injuries and is currently receiving treatment at the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital," a source close to the district head said.

Sources close to the Shehu of Borno Alhaji Abubakar Garbai Ibn El-Kanemi said the royal father was "deeply pained" by the demise of "one of his loyal and hardworking" community leaders.

On Friday, the Shehu during a meeting with elders of the state called on members of the Boko Haram to cease fire and embrace peace.

Traditional rulers have become targets of attack in recent times. On Friday, 13th July, 2012, a suicide bomber targeted the Shehu of Borno and the deputy governor of the state shortly after Friday prayers.

Daily Trust reports that in the last three month, Gwange, a district in Maiduguri, where the late Kanurebe oversaw, has turned into a battle ground between insurgents and security forces with increased cases of bomb explosions and killings. Over 30 people were allegedly killed in the area on October 8 after a bomb blast which killed an army lieutenant and two soldiers.

Meanwhile, suspected gunmen yesterday trailed and killed a retired Fire Service officer, his wife and their son, shortly after they left a Church in Gwange area of Maiduguri metropolis where they attended a morning church service.



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