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Nigeria: Bloodbath - 34 Killed in Potiskum

BY HAMZA IDRIS AND HAMISU KABIR MATAZU, 21 OCTOBER 2012

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Damaturu — Potiskum, the biggest business district in Yobe State, yesterday recorded different sets of tragedies following the sacking of many families in the dead of the night on Friday by yet to be identified assailants.

A retired customs boss and his son were killed in one of the incidents, while a retired police sergeant, his wife and three children were killed in another ambush, even as a tractor driver and six of his children were killed in yet another night attack, all in Potiskum, witnesses said.

Witnesses told our reporters that the killings were carried out simultaneously and in a "commando style," despite the restriction of movements in the town.

Waziri Ajiya, the retired Area Comptroller of the Nigeria Customs Service and his son, Dr Ibrahim Waziri, were reportedly taken to the outskirts of Potiskum in the early hours of yesterday and slaughtered, witnesses said.

Waziri retired from the Customs in 2003 and was a close ally of Adamu Maina Waziri, a former Minister of Police Affairs.

Similarly, the retired police sergeant, Haruna Adamu, his wife and three children were also attacked by unidentified gunmen in their house in Potiskum, the town which many people said is now under siege.

Beside the two incidents, a tractor driver working at the Agricultural Department of Potiskum Local Government was also killed in his house.

Six of his children were also killed in the same premises at Old Barrack Settlement in Potiskum," witnesses said.

Residents said a teacher at the Government Day Secondary, Potiskum was also killed in the dead of the night yesterday and the corpse was dumped behind the house of the deceased.

Yobe State commissioner of Police, Patrick Egbuniwe, confirmed some of Saturday's killings, saying, "The hoodlums are trying to adopt the same operation like the one they did in Damaturu which we stopped."

He said that effort was being made to track the assailant, "We have planned another strategy and this serial killings most stop," he said.

The serial killings took place less than 48 hours after a gun battle ensued between suspected gunmen of Jama'atu Ahlis Sunnati Lidda'awati Wal Jihad, also known as Boko Haram, and security forces in Potiskum.



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