

Ward head, two cops, others killed in Borno

From Hamza Idris, Maiduguri

Suspected members of the Jama'atu Ahlis Sunnah Lidda'awati Wal Jihad, also known Boko Haram, on Saturday night in Maiduguri killed five people including a ward head and his brother, two policemen as well as a mason.

A security source confirmed the attacks yesterday.

The killings were carried out

amid rumours from the populace that security forces in Borno State are planning to close down some wards in Maiduguri metropolis with a view to fishing out suspected gunmen but the Joint Task Force (JTF) had debunked the allegation.

Residents of Pompomarin Gomari said all the five victims were killed around 9pm when most people were indoors.

A neighbour of the deceased

said the whole area was thrown into mourning and many people could not sleep because of fear of the unknown.

"The ward head is the Lawanin Gomari and was met at home where he was living with his brother and their families. They died as a result of injuries they sustained from endless gunshots," the neighbour said.

"But the mason who lived in a house not far from that of the

ward head as well as the two policemen were slaughtered," he said.

Pompomarin Gomari had been a relatively safe suburb when compared with other settlements. In the last two years, this is just the second time the area was attacked.

Daily Trust reports that security operatives have cordoned off the vicinity and also established a military post at the

Ayafe area.

On the alleged plans to completely barricade some settlements, JTF spokesman, Lieutenant Colonel Sagir Musa said, "There is absolutely no truth in the rumour of any impending operation by the JTF that will lead to the closure of some wards. The rumour is dubious, bunkum and intended to further destroy the relative peace that Borno State is enjoying in the past few weeks."