

...or never to seek elective office in the country, said instead he would continue to play a role of statesmanship by giving advice.

Boko Haram attacks Damboa, 11 + 1 civilians killed

Hamza Idris, Maiduguri

AT least 11 civilians have been killed in Damboa town when suspected members of Boko Haram, including foreign mercenaries, stormed the area at night on Thursday.

A top security source who spoke to newsmen in confidence because he was not authorized to speak confirmed the incident confirmed that 11 civilians lost their lives.

"More troops have been dispatched to the area to confront the insurgents. We gathered that they sneaked away from Damboa towards the bush leading to parts of Yobe and Gombe States. For sure, they will not escape," he said.

Sources said the insurgents have also destroyed more than half of the business premises and shops in the village even though they reportedly faced stiff resistance from Borno youth volunteer vigilante groups (civilian JTF), who also killed one of the insurgents, injured many and captured one alive.

A resident of Damboa who fled to Maiduguri said the assailants, numbering about 50 attacked the town in a convoy of nine Golf salon cars and motorcycles.

He said there was heavy fire from the insurgents who also targeted police and military formations, forcing the residents to vacate their houses and sought refuge in nearby farms and bushes.

"The good news is that the youth vigilantes defied the superior power of the attackers because they confronted them squarely. Though the youth were armed with daggers, knives and machete, they confronted the insurgents heads on," he said.

Another witness said there are aliens among the attackers. "They spoke Arabic fluently and they came with sophisticated guns and improvised explosive devices (IEDs). They threw many of the explosives into shops and buildings," he said.

Member representing Damboa in the Borno State House of Assembly, Ayamu Lawan Gwasha, told journalists in Maiduguri yesterday that his people "are under siege".

Spokesman of the Joint Task Force (JTF) Lt Col Sagir Musa could not be reached for comment.