

Nigeria: Boko Haram Kills 40, Burns 300 Houses in Borno

BY HAMZA IDRIS, YAHAYA IBRAHIM AND IBRAHIM SAWAB, 5 NOVEMBER 2013

Maiduguri — Local authorities yesterday said 40 people were killed and 12 others were injured while over 300 houses were set ablaze in two attacks on Thursday and Saturday last week in two villages in Bama Local Government Area of Borno State.

Reports on the attacks were got only yesterday because of communication difficulties in the area as mobile telecommunication services have been suspended in Borno State.

Chairman of the local government area, Baba Shehu Gulumba, told journalists in Maiduguri yesterday that in the first attack, 27 people were killed and 12 others injured in what he described as a coordinated attack on Gulumba village on Thursday by suspected members of the Boko Haram.

"The insurgents, numbering about 70, invaded Gulumba and the information given to the local government authority indicated that they went to the village on motorcycles and a Toyota Hilux van and started firing. When the villagers saw the insurgents, they started fleeing the town but they opened fire on them", he said.

"The 12 people that were injured are now receiving treatment at the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital (UMTH)," the caretaker chairman said. He said the insurgents burnt about 300 houses, 15 shops, 35 motorcycles, 15 cars and 250 sewing machines.

In the second attack, the chairman said 13 people who were travelling towards Maiduguri in a commuter bus were ambushed along the Bama-Gwoza road on Saturday.

"The attackers took the travellers unawares near a bridge and opened fire. They first targeted the driver and shot him. He died instantly and the vehicle lost control and veered off the road. Some of the passengers escaped from the accident unhurt but were pursued by the insurgents and killed," the chairman said.

He called on the people in the area to intensify prayers for peace to return and also urged security agencies to intensify surveillance, saying many lives are being wasted on daily basis.

District Head of Gulumba, Alhaji Baba Shehu Ballak also said his people are under serious distress and require urgent attention. "We pray for divine intervention because our problem is enormous," he said. At the time of filing this report, there was no information on the attacks from the state police command or the military.



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Rebels .

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