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Gunmen attack Borno village, kill 40

From Hamza Idris, Maiduguri

Gunmen suspected to be members of the Boko Haram yesterday killed at least 40 civilians in Dalwa-Masuba village of Damboa local government area of Borno State, vigilante leaders and witnesses said.

Hundreds of villagers took to the bushes in the early hours of yesterday when dozens of the attackers stormed Dalwa with guns and improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

They reportedly killed at will and left. Information about the attack filtered into Maiduguri late at night yesterday because GSM facilities around Damboa had been vandalized long ago.

It was gathered that most of the victims were people that could not run to safety.

The whole village was equally razed aground as the assailants hurled petrol bombs into bricks and thatched roof houses, some of the villagers that fled to Maiduguri said. They alleged that security operatives could not respond immediately, a development which gave the assailants opportunity to inflict maximum destruction in the village.

It was gathered that besides houses and shops, the assailants also burnt three pick-up vans carrying woods to Damboa.

A vigilante official, who spoke in confidence, said, "We heard about the attack from some of the villagers who fled. They said the whole community was under siege.

"This prompted us to go there in our patrol van. The entire village was set on fire, and about 40 persons were lying dead all over the place. There may be other victims in the ruined houses," he said. There is no official confirmation of the incident.

PDP rejects