



Gunmen kill 45 in Borno, Adamawa

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Members of the Boko Haram yesterday again left a trail of deaths and destruction in Biu LGA of Borno State, killing 24 people in a market in Kamuyya village, burning many houses and also killing 21 people in Madagali LGA in Adamawa State.

Sources in the village said the attackers were angered by the inability of the villagers to contribute a certain N250, 000 demanded by the insurgents after several warnings.

The money, according to the villagers, was for the insurgents to carry out what they called "God's work". It was gathered that over 100 houses were burnt while hundreds of thatched stalls at the market were destroyed.

Dan Ardo Ali, a resident, said the attackers also took away foodstuff including rice, beans, maize, sugar, detergents and burnt what they left behind.

A witness, Bukar Umar, said the attackers armed with rifles and explosives invaded the Kamuyya market in broad day light, opening fire on traders and customers who gathered from various communities, leading to the death of 24 people. He said many others including women and children escaped from the scene with life threatening injuries.

Umar said trouble started about two months ago when the insurgents visited the village and directed the village head to mobilize his subjects to contribute N250,000 for them in order to execute 'God's work.'

"Unfortunately, we could not raise the amount because most of us are peasant farmers and petty traders but after relentless efforts, we managed to raise only N70,000.

"The gunmen were angry and disappointed. They collected the money and threatened to return for the balance. They also warned that if we failed to raise the money, we should be ready to face a deadly attack. Unfortunately, when they left, we all relaxed and nobody bothered to make any extra effort to put in the amount," he said. Another resident said the attackers operated for over three hours before leaving without the intervention of security personnel.

The insurgents attacked two villages in Madagali LGA of Adamawa State early yesterday, killing 21 with 18 still missing after their attempt to raid Gubla on Saturday night was repelled by soldiers.

A source said one of the attackers was killed and two were arrested after soldiers engaged them in a gun battle. Having been overpowered, the attackers escaped in to the bush, leaving behind some weapons which were recovered by the military.

A resident said the attackers came in large numbers with dangerous weapons and started shooting while some of the residents were in church. Madagali LGA lies on the border with Borno State and has seen several attacks.