

THE WORLD NEWS II

100 killed after ceasefire as Abadam residents drown

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No fewer than 100 people have been killed in various communities in Borno State after the announcement of a ceasefire by the federal government and Boko Haram representatives last Friday, Daily Trust findings have shown.

There are also reports that many people drowned while crossing the Kumadugu-Yobe River, a tributary of the Lake Chad in an attempt to cross over to Niger Republic from Abadam town which was taken over by Boko Haram insurgents on Saturday.

Those who died include residents, hunters and some insurgents themselves.

The killings started Friday when some travellers were ambushed by insurgents at Azur, a thick forest in Hawul LGA of Borno State. Eight people were killed in the ambush and many others escaped with bullet wounds, witnesses said.

On Saturday, hunters and youth vigilantes, also known as Civilian JTF, mobilized from Biu and Shaffa town to retrieve bodies of those killed on Friday but ended up engaging in another fight with the insurgents. Mohammed Ibrahim, a hunter from Biu, said eight of their members were killed while they also killed eight insurgents, and three civilians died.

A Fulani community leader in Bulabulin village of Damboa LGA was also killed on Saturday. Between Thursday and Sunday, over 40 people were killed in Abadam.

Locals said among those killed was the traditional ruler, Ba Mallam Wasak, 75, an uncle of the immediate past Speaker of the Borno State House of Assembly, Goni Ali Modu.

Alhaji Salatu, another notable figure in Abadam and three of his children as well as one Alhaji Bulakaye were also killed. Besides Mallam Fatori, Abadam is the second biggest town which has come under attack from Boko Haram. Usman Alhaji, a resident of Abadam who reached Maiduguri yesterday told our correspondents that many people drowned in the Kumadugu-Yobe River.

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