

# We will not be deterred by attacks - Shi'ites

From Maryam Ahmadu-Suka, Kaduna

The Islamic Movement of Nigeria has said that it is not threatened by the attack on its members by the Boko Haram insurgents.

At least 20 people including women and children were killed and more than 50 others were injured on Friday in Dakasoye village of Kura Local Government Area of Kano State, when a suicide bomber blew himself up after joining the Shi'ite procession.

Our correspondent reports that many members of the group embarked on another round of trekking from Kaduna to Zaria yesterday.

Leader of the Islamic Movement of Nigeria in Kaduna, Sheikh Mohammed Mukhtar Sahabi, while briefing journalists ahead of the trekking which commenced at Layin Kosai in Tudun Wada area of the state, said Boko Haram insurgents' could not stop the procession.

"If we consider the online report that Boko Haram has set out to wipe out Shi'ite in Nigeria as threat enough to stop us, then nobody will practice his/her religion because these people attack

churches, mosques, houses, motor parks and markets", he said.

"We have to face the challenge, because if Imam Hussain had not faced the challenge, we will not be commemorating or celebrating him. These people who are doing this want to paralyze everything. We see this as a test from Allah, so we are not worried about the threat. How can we be worried about ghosts?

"I can categorically say that people interested in Nigeria's wealth are responsible for terrorism. If not, why is it that the crisis is only in areas where they have oil", he said.

On the procession, he said, "the trek is not fabricated and not something done out of the religion. The option of trekking to Zaria is synonymous to the trek to Hussainiyyah Baqiyyatullah. It is the same thing with the option that if you do not have money to perform Hajj, you can perform Eid-el-Fitr in your village. We embark on the symbolic trek to Hussainiyyah Baqiyyatullah, to recall the trials and tribulations faced by members of the prophet's household, who were chained and dragged barefoot in the scorching desert from Karbala".