attacks in Borno, Yobe

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Scores of civilians and Boko Haram insurgents were reportedly killed yesterday during different attacks in Borno and Yobe states.

Witnesses said the first attack was an ambush on firewood mongers in villages around Mafa, the first local government area outskirts of Maiduguri along Dikwa- Gamboru-Ngala-Cameroon Republic road.

The second attack was reportedly launched at villages around Kanamma in northern fringes of Yobe State, the first place where Boko Haram, then known as Nigerian Taliban, settled around 2002.

The third siege was along Maiduguri- Damboa road in southern part of Borno.

Different sources said dozens of people were allegedly killed but this could not be independently verified.

In the attack in Mafa, sources said no fewer than 50 people were killed.

A vigilante Umara Modu said many Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) from Muna camp in the outskirts of Maiduguri, as well as others from the

surrounding villages, including Maiwa near Mafa LGA, were killed around 2.30 pm Saturday.

"Different Boko Haram gangs ambushed different locations. More than 50 people, mostly those chopping firewood which they normally sell to support their families, were killed," he said.

"They carted away many trucks belonging to the firewood mongers and set ablaze the rickety ones," he added.

Usman Jidda, a driver who lives near Muna garage in Maiduguri corroborated. "It was a targeted attack by the terrorists... Based on the information I got, they killed more than 40 people in the bushes," he said.