

Insecurity persists as gunmen kill three in Borno

From Njadvara Musa,
Maiduguri

FOUR unknown gunmen riding on two motorcycles on Saturday killed three persons in Borno State.

The victims include, Sheikh Bashir Mustapha, a Sunni Islamic scholar who was shot in his house at Layin Gidan Hajiya Mai Tuwon Yasin in Gwange ward of Maiduguri and with one of his pupils, Alhaji Sunoma.

The third victim, Mamman Zannah, a senior staff of Bama Local Council was killed last Thursday at his New York ward residence in Bama, 78 kilometres south of Maiduguri, the state capital.

Eyewitnesses told *The Guardian* that Sheikh Mustapha and Sunoma

were attacked around 11 a.m by two assailants who walked into his house, pretending to be visitors.

"The two men rode on a motorcycle and stopped in front of the house. The one who wore a kaftan entered the house and then called the other who was on the motorcycle on phone. It was after he entered that we heard gunshots," said an eyewitness.

It was learnt that two persons were sighted in a vehicle by the corner while another stood at the other end of the road. One person was said to have left a wedding gathering adjacent the scene of the incident on a motorcycle as the assailants arrived. The one who wore kaftan was said to have fired



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repeatedly into the air with a Kalashnikov rifle as they all left.

The Bama Council official, who was attacked around 8.25p.m was said to have been killed by four gunmen

riding on two motorcycles barely 24 hours after some other motorcycle-riding gunmen murdered an All Nigeria People's Party (ANPP) chieftain Alhaji Awana Ali Ngala in his living room. Two other motorcyclists injured a police sergeant Isa Omale who was on duty at the residence of the Speaker of the Borno State House of Assembly before taking away his Kalashnikov rifle.

Borno State Police Public Relations Officer, Mai Mamman, who confirmed the incidents said the senior Bama Council staff, was struck at his residence after the evening prayers around 8.25pm while in company of friends and neighbours. His chest and forehead were

said to have been ridden with bullets.

Governor Ali Modu Sheriff of Borno State was said to have burst into tears when he visited the scene, a few minutes after the incident, along with the 21 Armoured Brigade Commander of the Nigerian Army, Brig. Gen. Ibrahim Hassan Ndaliman.

The recent killings are persisting despite the "stop and search" exercise by combined team of Operation Flush II and the ban on motorcycle operations from dusk to dawn to curb the attacks that have claimed the lives of seven police officers, nine civilians (amongst them a ward head and an Islamic scholar) and left four others injured.