

NEWSHIGHLIGHTS

One Week Into Emergency, *Boko Haram* Unleash Terror

From Njadvava Musa, Maiduguri

• Kill More Than 50 In Borno, Gombe, Adamawa

IN spite of the December 31, 2011 emergency declaration by President Goodluck Jonathan, in the 15 council areas hard hit by violent *Boko Haram* insurrection in four states — Borno, Yobe, Plateau and Niger — the terrorist group continued with its devilish acts all through last week. Yesterday, authorities say suspected *Boko Haram* gunmen attacked a church and a barbing salon in Yola, Adamawa State, at about 7pm on Friday night, killing eight worshippers and three customers, respectively.

The sect also struck in Potiskum at about 5pm on Friday.

Men of the Joint Task Force (JTF) and the police, however, engaged the attackers in shootings that lasted three hours.

The incident resulted in the death of two residents. Three policemen and other persons sustained injuries.

At noon on Friday suspected sect members had killed 20 persons in Mubi, 210 kilometres from Yola, the Adamawa State capital.

Police commissioner, Ade Shinaba said the attackers, who were masked, arrived on six motorcycles and opened fire on the church and salon.

He said his men cordoned off the area to prevent further killings, as residents fled for safety.

Stephen Tizhe, 35, an eyewitness, said: "Three gunmen with their faces covered with black cloth burst into my salon and started shooting at customers, chanting, 'God is great! God is great!' We had to flee. Three customers were shot dead before the police rushed to the scene."

In Potiskum, police commissioner, Tanko Lawan, confirmed: "Two people were killed last night in the exchange of gunfire with the armed sect. Three policemen who were guarding the two banks that were set ablaze (Intercontinental Bank and Fin Bank) sustained injuries from petro-bombs."

No arrests were made in the Yola and Potiskum attacks.

Shinaba said the police are conducting investigations into the incident.

"These attacks and killing occurred in the night. It will be very difficult for us to get the

accurate number of casualties on both sides," he added.

He gave assurance to residents to go about their normal businesses, saying the police are on top of the security situation in the state.

All through last week, sounds of guns and bombs did not cease in some of the affected

areas. As soon as government pronouncement the emergency on New Year eve, *Boko Haram* issued on January 1, an ultimatum to Christians in the northern part of the country to leave within three days and threatened the descend heavily on government troops in the areas where state of emer-

gency had been declared.

On January 4, three bomb blasts hit the northern Nigerian cities of Maiduguri and Damaturu leaving over 20 dead and several others injured with *Boko Haram* quickly claiming responsibility. Several other attacks were soon to follow.

On January 5, in Gombe State Gunmen opened fire on worshippers at the Deeper Life Bible Church, killing eight worshippers, including the wife of the Pastor of the Church, even as two other victims in the state were killed in a hotel in the metropolis, with several others wounded.

As at yesterday, fleet of travelers were seen going back to their states of origin, in response to the ultimatum issued by *Boko Haram*. Reports from Asaba, Warri, Sapele in Delta and from other Southern states indicate that hundreds of citizens were relocating. The Police, which had dismissed the *Boko Haram* ultimatum with a wave of the hand, seem not to have any answer to the continued onslaught.



Nigerians on the street of London to protest the removal of fuel subsidy... on Friday

... Gunmen Kill Two University Of Maiduguri Students

From Njadvava Musa, Maiduguri

TWO students of the University of Maiduguri (UNIMAID) have been reported killed by three suspected *Boko Haram* gunmen at about 8pm in their Mairi ward residences, south of the University campus, Borno State commissioner of police, Simeon

Midenda has disclosed.

The police chief made this known yesterday to newsmen while speaking on this week's serial attacks and killings on Christian residences and people living in Dala and Mairi wards of Maiduguri metropolis.

He said the sectarian attacks have taken a different dimen-

BORNO

sion, where suspected gunmen target not only the military patrol vehicles of Joint Task Force (JTF) and policemen, but residences of policemen and Christians living in Jere, Bama and Biu council areas of the state.

The three council areas are

also under the state of emergency in addition to Maiduguri Metropolitan and Gambouru/Ngala.

He said the suspects came in unmarked vehicle with two Kalashnikov rifles hid under their flowing gowns, before they fired several gun shots into the heads and chests of the male and female students.

He said the two students are from Cross River and Akwa Ibom states.

He added that the former chairmen of a council area; and National Union of Roads Transport Workers (NURTW), were also killed in Mairi ward last year. No arrests, he said were made in the assassinations of University students