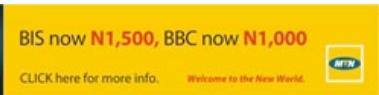


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## Gunmen kill one, attack police station, telecoms masts in Yobe

MONDAY, 25 MARCH 2013 00:00 BY MADU ONUORAH (ABUJA),  
ODITA SUNDAY (LAGOS), NJADVARA MUSA (DAMATURU),  
JOSEPH WANTU (MAKURDI) AND UZOMA NZEAGWU (AWKA)  
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A POLICEMAN was killed Monday in Yobe State as gunmen torched the Bara Divisional Police Station, council secretariat complex and the telecoms masts of MTN and Globacom.

Bara is the council headquarters of **Gulani** and 160 kilometres south of Damaturu, the Yobe State capital.

And in Lagos, the police are hunting for gunmen who kidnapped a Briton on his way home at night last weekend. The Lagos State Commissioner of Police, Mr. Umar Manko Manko, noted that unknown gunmen kidnapped the Briton just outside his home.

Meanwhile, Nigeria and the United States met in Abuja Monday on ways of strengthening their cooperation in the defence and security sector.

Minister of State for Defence, Dr Olusola Obada led the Nigerian delegation comprising Chief of Army Staff, Lt Gen Onyeabo Azubuike Ihejirika, Chief of the Air Staff, Air Marshal Alex Sabundu Badeh and other top military and civilian officials in the meeting with the U.S. Ambassador to Nigeria, Mr. Terence McCulley at the Ministry of Defence Headquarters, Abuja.

The meeting, which was initially billed to be covered by journalists at the Minister of State for Defence conference room was later moved to the minister's inner office at the request of the U.S. Ambassador. After the closed-door meeting, Obada described it as a routine U.S.-Nigeria bilateral relations discussion on areas of U.S. military support, cooperation and areas of mutual benefits.

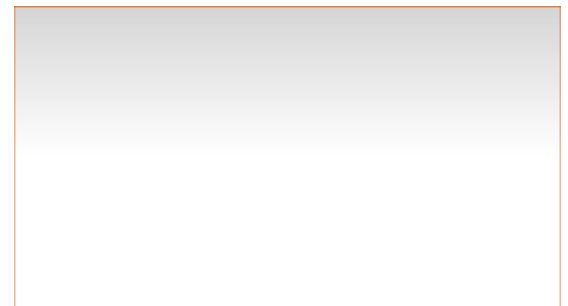
According to her, "we have a beautiful meeting with the Ambassador to further deepen the cooperation between Nigeria and the U.S. And we discussed a lot of issues that are beneficial to both countries. USA and Nigeria have come a very long way together in terms of military cooperation, in terms of training and so many other things. We intend to keep our relationship with them to ensure that the two enjoy each other's confidence. There are other issues that we discussed towards on-going happenings."

Obada stated that "the meeting has nothing to do with state pardon recently granted former Bayelsa State governor, DSP Alamiesiegha. We did not discuss that. This is the Ministry of Defence and we only discussed issue affecting the ministry."



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Sources at the meeting told The Guardian that McCulley expressed the concern of his government over the continuing terror attacks in parts of the North and general state of insecurity in other parts of the country.

He cited the recent terror attack on Lagos-bound motor park in Kano, the re-emergence of ethnic killings in Plateau State and growing case of prison attacks and jail breaks in Warri, Delta State, Borno and Ganye town in Adamawa State.

McCulley was said to have, however, expressed America's willingness to support the Nigerian government in its war against terror. He urged the service chiefs to work more in stemming the terror attacks.

But the source added: "The minister was able to convince the ambassador on the success recorded by the military to contain the Boko Haram like the arraignment of a kingpin, Kabiru Sokoto last week and how the military has been consistently arresting some members of the sect and exposing their hideouts in the country."

In addition, the Service Chiefs cited the military assaults on the Islamic extremists in Mali by the African-led International Support Mission to Mali (AFISMA) as the factor responsible for the upsurge in terror attacks, vowing to contain them.

During the attack in Yobe State, the gunmen, according to an eyewitness, also snatched three vehicles of the council, including a Toyota Hilux van, and fled towards Buni/Yadi at about 6.30 a.m. yesterday.

He said the gunmen that overpowered the policemen at the council headquarters operated for over three hours before they succeeded in torching the station and telecoms masts of MTN and Globacom in the council area.

Besides, the Chairman of **Benue's Gwer-West** Local Council, Mrs. Eunice Bajwa, has urged the Federal Government to quickly intervene in the crisis between the Fulani herdsmen and the Tiv farmers in her council to give peace a chance in the area.

Speaking with The Guardian yesterday on the crisis that engulfed Anguhar village last weekend, **Bajwa** said in addition to the **death of three policemen and one indigene at the initial stage, two more** bodies had been recovered from the affected village, bringing the total number of deaths to **six**.

"I have just been informed of the recovery of two more bodies of villagers who were killed in the mayhem by the Fulani herdsmen and I am just about to go to the village to see things for myself," she said.

The State Police Commissioner, Sanusi Rufai, said the gunmen employed rocket-propelled launchers and petrol-bombs in torching the police station and telecoms masts of the two telecoms firms at Gulani.

The attackers, according to the police boss, succeeded in burning down the station in the area and went away with three council cars.

He further disclosed that the suspects also **killed a police corporal by slitting his throat** at his Bara residence by 5.00 a.m. yesterday.

The commissioner said that no arrest had been made in the multiple attacks and killing at Bara yesterday.

Bajwa further said that the **Fulani herdsmen**, apart from **the killing**, burnt down many houses in the area, adding that the villagers were now taking refuge in **Naka town**, the headquarters of the council with some of their neighbours.

Bajwa said she had reported the matter to Governor Gabriel Suswam and expressed happiness that the state government had responded swiftly by deploying over 100 policemen in the troubled area.

When contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Daniel Ezeala, said two policemen, including a deputy superintendent of police, were killed in the crisis while one policeman was still missing at the time of filing this report.

He, however, disclosed that peace had returned to the area as policemen had since been keeping surveillance in the village.

The Guardian learnt that detectives from the Special Intelligence Bureau (SIB) and the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) of the Lagos State command have been deployed in search of the abductors and the victim.

"We have set our dragnet and we will get the kidnappers and rescue the victim. The victim is not an American, he is a Briton and we are putting all efforts to ensure that the kidnappers are arrested and brought to book," Manko said.

According to the Lagos State Police spokesman, Ngozi Braide, a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), the kidnapped Briton is a businessman who lives on Victoria Island.



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"We have started investigation into the matter and we would get the abductors soon," she said.

The United States consulate had said on Sunday that an expatriate was kidnapped. But no further details were immediately available.

A U.S. consulate spokeswoman did not reveal the nationality of the victim as at the time it happened, but the Lagos State police boss, Manko, confirmed that it was a Briton that was abducted.

"The U.S. Consulate-General in Lagos received a report that an expatriate was kidnapped on Victoria Island on Saturday, March 23 at approximately 11.00 p.m.," the consulate said in a message to U.S. citizens.

Meanwhile, the Movement for the Actualisation of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB) yesterday warned Boko Haram against killing Igbo.

The MASSOB Deputy Director of Information and the Co-co-ordinator of Event and Peace Committee on Security, Chris Mocha and Nnaemeka Onyemaechi, said at Nkpor, Idemili North Council Area, Anambra State, that there would be no turning back on its planned sit-at-home order slated for June 8, 2013, in memory of six Igbo traders killed at Apo Village, Abuja, by a police team, led by a Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Ibrahim Danjuma.

At the commissioning of the central security office of MASSOB at Nkpor, Idemili North Local Council Area, Anambra State, the MASSOB officials regretted that those accused of killing the traders still walk freely on the streets despite the judicial commission of inquiry headed by Justice Olasumbo Goodluck that exonerated the traders from armed robbery.

"Apart from the Apo six killing, over 40 Igbo were massacred and dumped at Ezu River in Amansea, Anambra State, recently.

"But one Rev. King who allegedly murdered one of his followers was immediately arrested, tried and sentenced to death", they observed, and wondered why the DCP should be allowed to work freely on the streets after the judicial report.

"The Apo six killing is one of the numerous killings of Ndigbo in Nigeria that have gone with little or no consequences, it is due to the insecurity of lives and property of Ndigbo in Nigeria that propelled MASSOB to clamour for the State of Biafra", the group added.

The six Anambra North Senatorial District Regional Administrators, Stephen Ahanaeku (Onitsha South), Vincent Ilo (Onitsha North), Okpalaeke Osondu (Anambra East), Jeremiah Kalu (Oyi), Emmanuel Omenka (Ogbaru) and Donatus Nweke (Anambra West), reiterated that there would be no vehicular and human movements on the said date.

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