

# Policeman, ruler killed as violence rages in Yobe, others

From Isa Abdulsalami (Jos),  
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**V**IOLENCE has continued to rage in the northern part of the country as two suspected gunmen on a tricycle on Monday attacked the residence of a police officer, Adamu Oshe, shooting him dead inside his car in Pawari Ward of Damaturu, Yobe State.

And yesterday, a suspected *Boko Haram* terrorist in a Honda Accord car attacked one of the Joint Task Force (JTF) patrol vehicles at about 1.30 p.m. by throwing an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) at the Lawan Bukar Junction of Maiduguri in Borno State, destroying several houses in the area.

Even though the JTF said no life was lost in the blast, the Nigeria Red Cross representative in Borno however said four persons were killed in the blast that

sent many people in the area to scamper for safety. He said besides the death toll, five persons sustained injuries while attempting to escape from the blast.

The spokesman of JTF, Lt-Col. Sagir Musa, in a statement said "at about 1.30 p.m., a failed attempt was made to throw an IED at JTF troops on routine patrol of Maiduguri metropolis by a suspected *Boko Haram* terrorist. The explosive device missed the patrol team and exploded at the Lawan Bukar Junction." He said the blast destroyed some houses in the area, with the loss of no lives on the part of JTF and civilians living in the affected area.

Also a village head, Chief Emmanuel Babale, has been confirmed killed in Nangam area of Sopp District in Riyom Local Council of Plateau State

when unknown gunmen suspected to be Fulani herdsmen attacked the village.

The gunmen who killed the police officer, according to an eyewitness and resident of Pawari, Isa Yakubu, trailed the security agent on a tricycle to his house at about 5.00 p.m. and killed him before men of the JTF rushed to the scene to prevent further attack and killing in the area.

Yakubu further said "the gunmen blocked the policeman while trying to alight from his car at the gate of his residence and shot him dead before his wife and children, while other residents in the area scampered for safety as the gunmen fired sporadically into the air."

Confirming the incident yesterday, the Yobe State Police Commissioner, Moses Onireti,

said "we just received the reports of attacks and killing in Pawari Ward this morning, where one of our officers was assassinated by suspected gunmen last evening. The officer was attached to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID)."

It was gathered that the assailants who killed the Plateau village head struck the village at about 8:00 p.m. on Monday and started shooting sporadically.

The member representing Riyom Constituency in the House of Assembly, Daniel Dem, confirmed the attack, describing it as unfortunate and unwarranted on his people. Meanwhile, six women and 11 children who are relations of some *Boko Haram* members "rescued" from a hide-out in

Rikkos, Jos North Local Council of Plateau State before the building was demolished on Saturday, are still being kept by the Special Task Force (STF) in Jos.

The *Boko Haram* chieftain, who was said to have been dislodged in Maiduguri during one of the operations there, took refuge in Rikkos, a Muslim dominated area of the state. He was trailed by the JTF from Borno State who carried out the operation. But the man simply referred to as Mohammed escaped before the raid. Weapons, ammunition and other dangerous chemicals used in preparing explosives were found in the building.

The Spokesman of the STF, Captain Mdayelya Markus, told *The Guardian* yesterday that it was too early to start thinking of their release to their families.