

Gunmen kill two Indians, injure others in Borno

THURSDAY, 26 JULY 2012 00:00 **FROM SAXONE AKHAINE (KADUNA) AND NJADVARA MUSA (MAIDUGURI)** [NEWS - NATIONAL](#)



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GUNMEN yesterday attacked the Zajeri industrial area of Maiduguri in Borno State, killing two Indian nationals and injuring three others at their gum Arabic factory at about 1p.m. yesterday.

The gunmen, according to an eyewitness demanded an unspecified amount of



money from the Indian traders, before they fired several gunshots into the factory and fled in an unmarked vehicle chanting, "God is great!"

He said: "We had to run for our lives, as the gunmen continued to fire sporadically to scare us from the scene," adding that it took the Joint Task Force (JTF) half an hour before they arrived at the area and condoned it off.

He added that none of the local residents was killed or injured, except the Indian nationals that were killed and injured in the afternoon attacks.

Hospital sources at the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital (UMTH) told The Guardian in a telephone conversation yesterday that two bodies of the Indians and three others injured were brought into the hospital's Accident & Emergency Unit (AEU) by men of JTF in their patrol van at about 1.30 p.m.

The attendant said that the three injured Indian nationals had already been put under intensive unit for the gunshot wounds they sustained at their shops, while the two bodies had been deposited at the hospital morgue for autopsy and identification by relations.

Confirming the incident, the spokesman of JTF, Lt. Col Sagir Musa in a statement said that two Indians were killed.

Besides, civil rights activist, Mallam Shehu Sani, has urged Arewa leaders to look inward and develop the potential of the north for revenue

generation rather than depend solely on oil revenue from the federation account.

In a statement yesterday, by Sani who is also the leader of the Northern Civil Society Coalition, he said that "the northern part of Nigeria must free itself from dependency on oil revenues and religious and ethnic conflicts," saying that "dependency on oil revenue has become a source of its ridicule and destroyed the spirit of its people."

According to him, "the years of ethnic and religious violence have demonized the region and posed a serious threat to the stability and

unity of the country and undermined the sustenance of our collective freedom.

“The assertion that the North is poorer than the south is largely untrue if we put into cognizance the enormous natural and human wealth

and potential in the North that are absent in other geographical zones of Nigeria. The northern states simply need to free

the region from those social, cultural, political, economic and religious inhibitions that retard, stifle and stunt the socio-economic and human development of the region.”

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