

Gunmen kill four in Yobe

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IN Potiskum, Yobe State, the Headmaster of Ari Primary School, Musa Magazai and one Mallam Galtamari, along with his two children, were killed in the early hours of yesterday by gunmen suspected to be members of the Boko Haram sect.

Potiskum is the commercial centre of Yobe State, and located 100 kilometres west of Damaturu, the state capital.

The killings were perpetrated despite the 4pm-7am curfew imposed by Governor Ibrahim Gaidam last Monday, following an emergency security meeting with military Joint Task Force (JTF) and the police on the incessant attacks, bombings and killings in Potiskum for four consecutive days.

Eyewitnesses in Potiskum said that despite the curfew, the gunmen freely moved and trailed the residences of the headmaster and Galtamari and slit their throats in the glare of their wives and children. Boka Aminu, a resident, also told The Guardian that the gunmen torched Ari Primary School yesterday before tying the principal's hands at his back and slit his throat.

He said: "Despite the 15-hour curfew, these gunmen still freely move about attacking and killing us without any cause. What have we done to warrant such continued massive attacks and assassinations along with the destruction of our schools and houses? The soldiers are not even helping matters because they allowed these criminals to go about hacking down many people, including our children.

"Since the attacks and killings commenced last Friday, many residents and soldiers, including seven children, have been killed. And yesterday, the gunmen also killed two children of Galtamari in the Dogon Zare area of Potiskum."

With the killing of four people yesterday, the Potiskum death toll has increased from 13 last Saturday to 26 yesterday, as confirmed by the Police Commissioner, Patrick Egbuniwe and the JTF spokesman, Lt.

Lazarus Eli.

Speaking on yesterday's incident, Lt. Eli said: "We are aware of Tuesday night's attacks and killings, including the torching of a primary school and killing of four other people in Potiskum. Our men are on top of the security situation, as the curfew imposed by the governor has remarkably reduced the movement of terrorists in the town."

He said there were also coordinated attacks on Monday night where the Director of Finance and Supply at the Yobe State Science and Technical

Board, Ado Jespa, and two of his children were assassinated by the rampaging terrorists. Other people killed, he added, included Jespa's neighbour, Mallam

Sagir at the T-junction area of Potiskum. The terrorists also attacked the homes of a House of

Representatives member, Abubakar Mainasara and the Customs Area Comptroller in charge of Katsina/Kaduna, Alhaji Yusuf Umar.

Public buildings torched include the King Abdulazeez Model

Islamic School, Government Science Secondary School and the College of Administration, Potiskum (CAPs), one of the surviving legacies of the late Sir Ahmadu Bello. It was learnt that 18 vehicles were burnt with petrol-bombs and Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs).

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