

Gunmen Kill 15 Villagers, JTF Arrests Three Boko Haram Suspects In Borno, Yobe

From Njadvara Musa, Maiduguri

VIOLENCE of selective killing of residents in Borno state continued in the early hours yesterday, as gunmen suspected to be members of the Boko Haram sect attacked Musari village on the outskirts of Maiduguri metropolis, killing 15 villagers in their houses.

According to an eyewitness, the assailants slit the throats of the victims after tying their hands at the backs, without firing a gunshot to attract the attention of men of the Joint Task Force (JTF) and Police on the Baga road.

Musari village is located between the Baga Motor Park and Maimalari Military Barracks on Baga road of the metropolis.

Speaking on how the villagers were killed, he said: "We were asleep when we heard some people chanting, God is great and started knocking at the entrances of our houses at about 12.45am yesterday.

"One of them ordered that these two men be slaughtered, while at the next house, one child started crying along with the mother begging to spare the life of her husband. But the three gunmen insist-

ed, and killed two here by slitting their throats.

"It was in the same way, the other 12 neighbours, including teenagers were also killed by employing what he described as: "Tie hands to the backs and slit throats of the infidels here in Yerwa," he said.

Another eyewitness also told *The Guardian* that three Toyota Hilux patrol vehicles of the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) carried several bodies of villagers to the mortuary of Specialists Hospital, Maiduguri at about 6.35am.

The JTF, in a statement on

Friday however, said that five were killed in the village.

Confirming the incident yesterday in Maiduguri, the spokesman of JTF, Lt. Col Sagir Musa, said the gunmen sneaked into Musari village community and secretly carried out their selective killings for three hours.

Musa, in the statement, said five people, including a serving Nigeria Police Traffic Warden was killed in the early hours.

The statement also read in part: "The incident happened in the early hours of today (Friday), between 1am and

3am. The Joint Task Force troops that responded to a distress call came, arrested three suspected assailants and recovered 1 AK 47 rifle with 10 rounds of 7.62mm ammunition.

"Investigation has since commenced and the operation to apprehend fleeing members of the gang is ongoing. The Task Force also reminds members of the public to pass any credible information to JTF through the following telephone numbers - 08064174066, 07085464012 and 08154429346 - for quick intervention.

Okada Riders Appeal Ban, Say Trial Judge Erred

By Bankole Shakirudeen Adeshina

MOTORCYCLE operators, otherwise known as Okada Riders in Lagos, have filed a notice of appeal against a Lagos High Court's judgment, validating its permanent ban/restrictions on certain roads in the metropolis.

Filing the appeal on grounds of 'Error of Law,' the group is seeking relief of: An order allowing the Appeal and An order granting all the reliefs.

In a notice, dated December 27 and made available to *The Guardian* yesterday, the appellants, under the auspices of the Incorporated Trustees of All Nigerian Autobike Commercial Owners And Workers Associations, insisted that the deciding judge, Honourable Justice A. O.