

Gunmen kill Borno NDLEA's ex-boss, mother of 11 kids

From Njadvura Musa, Maiduguri

VIOLENCE is yet to abate in southern parts of Borno State, where gunmen suspected to be *Boko Haram* members attacked the Ngwa community in Hawul Local Council and shot dead a former state commander of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), Mr. Hatsuwa Bwala, at 2p.m on Friday.

The incident occurred barely 24 hours after suspected sect members attacked the Umarari residence of Hajiya Ya Hauwa Abubakar, a 51-year-old mother of 11 children, and shot her dead before her children and husband. Ngwa is 205 kilometres south of Maiduguri, the state capital, and the centre of activities of the Islamic sect.

The gunmen, according to an eyewitness, trailed the NDLEA former boss on a motorcycle to his father's residence at Ngwa, where they fired several gunshots into his head and chest and he slumped in the glare of his parents.

A relation of Bwala also told *The Guardian* yesterday that, "our brother was issued a threat letter by the *Boko Haram* sect while he was the commander of NDLEA in Borno State. In that letter, he was warned and asked to relocate from Maiduguri to another place because, according to the letter, the activities of the commander in the state were against the sect's agenda on *Sharia*."

He continued: "Last Friday's attack by these gunmen were the first of its kind in Hawul Local Council. The few exceptional attacks and killings were recorded in Biu town. We have been living in peace for many decades, without any gunshot or bomb blast. But now these gunmen have started to attack us. What sin have we committed to

justify this killing?"

It was learnt that Hawul Council is one of the few areas in Borno State largely dominated by Christians. Confirming the incident in Maiduguri, the Police Command Spokesman, Gideon Jibrin, said there was an attack on one community in Hauwul Council where an NDLEA former boss was assassinated in the afternoon of last Friday.

He said the assailants came on a motorcycle to the slain man's father's house and shot him dead, before fleeing on the same vehicle towards the Biu-Garkida Highway. Also, the gunmen, who killed the mother of 11 children, according to a resident, Isa Yakubu, assassinated her because she allegedly allowed two armed suspected

Boko Haram gunmen to "hide and take refuge" in her house after soldiers pursued them at 9.35a.m.

"We were terrified by the gunshots and chasing of the gunmen here by soldiers, as people started running for safety. The soldiers took positions around this house in the morning and killed the two gunmen. Their rifles were also seized," Yakubu said.

According to him, seven hours after the capture and killings of the gunmen, another group of *Boko Haram* gunmen regrouped and attacked Hauwa's residence. They shot her dead before her children. Confirming the incident on Friday in Maiduguri, Jibrin said one housewife, Ya Hauwa, 51, a mother of 11 children, was killed by armed hoodlums in the Umarari area of Maiduguri.

He said none of the assailants was apprehended by either the JTF or police, but the two armed hoodlums that took refuge at Hauwa's residence were killed, with two AK 47 rifles recovered from them.

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