

Gunmen kill two, army denies extra-judicial murder

From **Njadvura Musa** (Maiduguri) and **Ali Garba** (Bauchi)

THERE may be no end yet to bloodletting in Maiduguri, the Borno state capital, as gunmen suspected to be members of *Boko Haram* sect on Sunday evening and yesterday killed two residents (names withheld) of the metropolis.

Meanwhile, the Commandant of 301 Artillery Regiment, Gombe, Col. Joseph Iwara, has denied the alleged killing of two persons by his command.

An eyewitness said the vic-

tims were killed by gunmen who came in two separate tricycles.

According to him, "three gunmen yesterday came in a tricycle immediately we finished praying in the mosque at 6.45pm and started shooting into the air. We later learnt that one of our neighbours was killed after which the gunmen fled. We have already buried the victim this morning at the Gwange cemetery according to Islamic rites."

Also, the State Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO),

Gideon Jibrin, confirmed the killing, saying that investigations were on to track down the culprits.

Speaking with journalists on the allegation, Iwara stated that the army did not act without having detailed information about what to do or on any suspect.

He said considering the insecurity in the country and especially in the North-East, soldiers were only compelled to kill as a last retort and urged journalists to discard the allegation.

There were allegations of

extra-judicial killings against the Gombe command by one Adamu Usman of Pantami quarters.

Usman had told journalists that their house was last Friday morning broken into, searched and vandalised by the army.

He alleged that after the exercise, soldiers took away his younger brother, Hamza Usman, a teacher in a private nursery/primary school and his friend, Adamu Babayo, a roadside auto-mechanic.

He further alleged that noth-

ing was heard again of the duo until later when they were told the two friends had died in the hands of the soldiers.

According to him, "my brother and his friend are not known to be members of *Boko Haram*".

He said all efforts to recover the dead bodies from the army proved abortive as they only received the victims' bodies from the police after they were told by the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) in charge of Gombe Division that the bodies were found on Yola road.