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Buhari blames insecurity on govt

It was a black Easter in Borno and Kaduna states as 22 persons, including a village head and a university teacher were feared killed in the two states.

In a related development, former Military Head of State and presidential candidate of the Congress for Progressive Change (CPC) in 2011 polls Gen. Muhammadu Buhari Monday blamed the Federal Government for the rising insecurity in the country, saying the ugly trend was not peculiar to the North but had engulfed the entire nation.

In Borno State, gunmen at the weekend invaded the palace of Pulka District Head, Ali Pulka in Gwoza council and killed him.

Pulka is a border town with Cameroun about 119 kilometres southeast of Maiduguri, the Borno State capital.

Also in Maiduguri metropolis, suspected bandits on Sunday night stormed 202 Housing Estate and a Church at Dalori areas of the city, killing Prof. Murtala Mohammed of the Mass Communication Department of the University of Maiduguri (UNIMAID) and a security guard of the unidentified church.

An anonymous top police officer attached to the Gwoza Divisional Police Station, said yesterday in Maiduguri, that the gunmen came in with two Golf Volkswagen vehicles and motorcycle and proceeded straight to the village head's palace and shot him dead, before soldiers rushed to the scene.

Speaking on the incident, the Division Police Officer (DPO), Audu Boka in a telephone chat said that the gunmen were suspected Boko Haram sect members, who allegedly attacked and torched a police station, bank and a prison, setting 170 inmates free on March 4, 2013.

Prof. Mohammed, according to an eyewitness yesterday, was shot on the head and chest before men of the Joint Task Force (JTF) rushed to the scene and arrested some residents for questioning.

The State Police Command spokesman, Gideon Jibrin also yesterday confirmed the incidents, adding that no arrests had been made yet.

In Kaduna State, gunmen on Sunday night invaded Ataka community in Kaura Local Government Area where they went on a shooting spree, killing 19 people while several others were injured.

An eyewitness, who spoke with journalists under anonymity said: "If not for the assistance that came from neighbouring villages, the whole community would have been wiped out by the invaders who came with guns from places we don't know."

The eyewitness added: "About 19 people died after the attack and many people were injured and have been taken for treatment in different places".

Confirming the incident, the State Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Mallam Aminu Lawan (DSP) said: "There was an attack. Well people were actually killed but we are still contacting the area commander who,

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right now with other security agencies are there, most especially the military, to get the exact figures of those who lost their lives”.

Lawan continued: “The incident, according to what we gathered occurred in the early hours of yesterday (Sunday) and because of the rugged terrain, it was very difficult for the security operatives to get to the place early, but we are still hoping to get to the root of the incident. Our men are already there and they have already taken control of the place.”

Buhari, who spoke in an interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) in London yesterday said, “the problem of terrorism is not confined to the North alone”, adding that “insecurity generally should be blamed on the President Goodluck Jonathan led Federal Government”.

Buhari spoke on how best to tackle the problem of Boko Haram in the BBC Hausa service, stressing that those called Boko Haram and their partners in the South south who kidnap people are two sides of the same coin.

He added: “The world is very much concerned about two things, the issue of security and economic wellbeing of a nation. Security is number one. A nation can only be economically viable if there is security. But how did all these crisis start? How did the crisis begin and assume this dimension? They are those who possess weapons and had been abducting people and collecting money.

“Up till now, every day they abduct people and receive ransom. How was the problem reduced, how did it start and what method was employed to convince them to mellow down? Now what we should look at, how did the Boko Haram start and what was done to the group? We know all these. Security is the responsibility of the government”.

On granting amnesty to Boko Haram members, Buhari said that for any such move to be meaningful, there was the need to first identify who the leaders of the dreaded group were and their mission.

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