

Tuesday, Jul 09th | Last update 05:00:00 AM GMT



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Eight feared killed in Borno violence

WEDNESDAY, 10 APRIL 2013 01:00 FROM NJADVARE MUSA (MAIDUGURI) AND BANKOLE SHAKIRUDEEN ADESHINA (LAGOS)
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•Wamakko, group differ on amnesty for Boko Haram

•Jakande tasks govt on action

AGAIN, bandits suspected to be members of Boko Haram on Tuesday evening, unleashed terror in Dikwa, Gwoza and Bama communities of Borno State killing four members of the State Feeding Committee (BOFC), four others, including Iliya, a cleric's son in the area.

Dikwa, Gwoza and Bama are border towns with Republics of Cameroun and Chad.

And to forestall further violence and restore peace in the North, Governor Aliyu Wamakko of Sokoto State Wednesday okayed the Federal Government moves to grant amnesty to the dreaded Boko Haram sect.

But the Youth Wing of the Christian Association of Nigeria (YOWICAN) has opposed the planned pardon for members of the sect.

Meanwhile, former Lagos State Governor Lateef Jakande has accused the Federal Government of not doing enough in bringing the Boko Haram terrorists to justice.

According to an eyewitness, the committee members were ambushed by the gunmen after they paid a courtesy call at the Shehu of Dikwa, Alhaji Mohammed Ibn Masta El-Kanemi at Dikwa.

He said: "The three officials and the driver of the Hilux van they were travelling with were ambushed by the gunmen barely few kilometers away from Dikwa when we heard gun shots. But I cannot ascertain whether the shots were from armed bandits or the Boko Haram militants operating on the

Dikwa-Gambouru road," adding that two hours after, sources from the Shehu of Dikwa, said that four Borno officials who visited the Shehu were attacked and killed by gunmen.

He added that the bodies of the slain officials were buried by the suspected gunmen in shallow graves, north of the Shehu's palace.

On same Tuesday in Bama, suspected gunmen in separate attacks, shot dead an examination officer, Mallam Ayuba of Day

Secondary School, Bama, before proceeding to Umar Ibrahim College of Education where they set ablaze the residence of one of the teachers at the Housing Estate, killing another teacher along with his wife and 12-year old child.

The State Police Commissioner, Yuguda Abdullahi confirmed the incidents yesterday in Maiduguri, adding that investigations had begun on the killings.

The governor added: "This committee set up by Federal Government, is a very much welcome development, as granting pardon to the Boko Haram insurgents, is the key or means to ending incessant attacks, bombings and killings to achieve peace in the North."

Wamakko, spoke yesterday on the Radio France International (RFI) Hausa

Service and monitored from Maiduguri, cautioning that without granting pardon to the insurgents, it would be very "difficult if not impossible" for the sect to drop their arms.

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Briefing journalists yesterday in Abuja, the President of YOWICAN, Dr. Simon Dolly, noted that the proposed amnesty for the Boko Haram sect portends serious danger to Nigeria and Nigerians and was an invitation for more terrorism in the country.

They added that rather than considering amnesty for a group that has unleashed mayhem on innocent Nigerians, the Federal Government should ensure immediate prosecution of those arrested so far.

Speaking with The Guardian in Lagos yesterday when the Nigerian Institute of Management, (NIM) led by its president, Dr Michael Olawale-Cole visited him, Jakande said that government had not fulfilled its constitutional duty of guaranteeing the safety of lives and property in the country.

He added that the Federal Government had not done enough to address the Boko Haram menace, stressing that to demonstrate seriousness it needed to get to the root of the sect's insurgency.

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