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Gunmen kill one, injure ex-dep gov's son in Borno

WEDNESDAY, 17 APRIL 2013 01:00 FROM SAXONE AKHAINE (KADUNA), INEMESIT AKPAN-NSOH, AYOYINKA OLAGOKE (UYO), LAWRENCE NJOKU (ENUGU), NJADVARA MUSA (MAIDUGURI) AND JOHN OKEKE (ABUJA) NEWS - NATIONAL



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• Christian group opposes amnesty for Boko Haram, ACF backs dialogue

GUNMEN suspected to be Boko Haram members on Tuesday and Wednesday struck in Maiduguri, Borno State capital killing a resident of the metropolis and shooting the son of the state former Deputy Governor, Shehu Abubakar.



Meanwhile, the Christian Elders Forum of Northern States (NOSCEF) has opposed plans to grant amnesty to the Boko Haram sect, adding that the group had caused more harm than good in the North

Amid the going insecurity in the country, the Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF) has cautioned those proposing a Sovereign National Conference (SNC) as a way of checking the ugly trend, to better think twice, saying that such proposal may lead to dismembering the country.

In a related development, the Inspector-General of Police, Mohammed Abubakar, has vowed to make the Force a committed and competent one in the handling of internal security challenges in the country.

He stated this while declaring open a training workshop for Police Public Relations Officers PPROs at Uyo, Akwa Ibom State.

Moreover, the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) in the South East zone yesterday rose from its meeting in Enugu with a call on governors of the five states of the zone to find ways to address the deteriorating security in the zone.

They said that there was increasing spate of kidnapping, armed robberies and other crimes and criminalities in the zone.

According to an eyewitness, the victim, Abubakar, went to a shop to buy provisions, when three gunmen shot him on the leg and snatched his vehicle.

He source said: "We were sitting near a shop when four gunmen in a tricycle ambushed Abubakar and shot him, before snatching his vehicle. Soldiers later took to the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital (UMTH) for treatment. An hour after the incident, the suspects crashed the vehicle on a tree and two died on the spot, while the other two were arrested by JTF and taken for interrogation at Giwa Barracks.

Confirming the incident yesterday in Maiduguri, the JTF spokesman, Lt. Col Sagir Musa, said that one person was feared killed in the attack.

Speaking in Abuja yesterday at her national conference, the Chairman of NOSCEF, Mathew Owojaiye said that the security arms of government had failed in their duties to check the sect's menace.

Owojaiye stressed that their predicament in the North had multi-faceted following the sect's atrocities, adding that the amnesty was wrong headed.

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Besides, the ACF leaders who hosted the Ambassador of Ireland to Nigeria, Mr. Patrick Fay in Kaduna yesterday, said that in spite of the Boko Haram sect's rejection of planned amnesty, they still believed that dialogue was the only tool government must employ to resolve the insurgency in the North.

They urged President Goodluck Jonathan to go ahead with government's programme in ending the insurgency.

Speaking on behalf of the Arewa leaders, the National Publicity Secretary of the Northern socio-cultural group, Mr. Anthony Sani, who criticised those clamouring for SNC in the country as an alternative means in solving the current insurgency by Boko Haram argued: "We have heard that some of the insurgents have rejected the planned amnesty, also we are beginning to hear calls for the SNC which for such advocates is the only solution, but we say no; we endorse amnesty, we want dialogue.

With the theme, 'Effective communication for a better, secured and

prosperous Nigeria, the police chief said the Force required greater collaboration and partnership with people if it was to effectively tackle the various security challenges confronting the nation.

"I have always had my desire as a police officer to build a people-friendly police force; when I was appointed by the President my dream came true because I saw it as an opportunity to put strategies and methodologies of transforming the police into a people-friendly force, a police that can defend this country.

In a statement after the meeting, NUJ specifically called on the governors of the and other stakeholders to work for peace, security and economic welfare of the people.

The statement signed by the Vice President of the Union in the zone, Chris Isiguzo and Zonal Secretary, Monic Okechukwu also urged the governors to utilize their security votes judiciously especially in the provision of adequate logistics and incentives to security outfits to enable them combat crimes.

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