

Gunmen Torch Churches, Kill Three In Borno

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DESPITE the massive arrests and destruction of Boko Haram training camps and hideouts by troops of the Military Special Operations (MISOP) in Borno State, **gunmen suspected of the Islamist sect torched two Churches at Hrazah and Hembe communities in Gwoza Council on Thursday about 7.45pm.**

Meanwhile, violence has erupted again in Maiduguri, Borno State, as gunmen suspected to be members of Boko Haram sect shot dead the District Head of Dala Alamderi, Alhaji Liberty Dala, on Thursday by 9:pm at his residence.



According to an eyewitness, the gunmen came in a tricycle chanting 'God is great', before bursting into his parlour and shot the district head and fled in the same vehicle into an unknown destination. Gwoza is a border town with Cameroun and 135 kilometres south of Maiduguri, the state capital.

The gunmen, according to an eyewitness, used Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and petrol-bombs to set the two churches ablaze, before killing two residents that lived near the Hembe church premises.

He said: "We had just finished taking our supper when some armed men started shouting 'God is great' and three of the gunmen threw some explosives at this church. The other two gunmen used petrol-bombs in setting our church here in Hembe on fire.

"Some of us run into our houses and shout for safety, as we did not know the next target of the gunmen.

"Thursday's night's attacks and killings in Hembe and Hrazah, 25 kilometres from our village, are strange to hill dwellers. We have been hearing attacks and killings by Boko Haram sect members in Maiduguri and Gwoza towns. But these attacks on our churches will never be forgiven, as no religion condones the taking away of someone's life. What have the Gwoza Hill dwellers done to these gunmen?" queried the eyewitness yesterday in an interview at the Bama road motor park, Maiduguri.

Confirming the separate incidents yesterday in Maiduguri, the Borno State Police Command spokesman, Gideon Jibrin, said the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) in Gwoza sent in a report, indicating that armed men attacked the hill dwellers of Hrazah and Hembe, where two person were feared killed along with the burning down of two churches Thursday night.

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Author of this article: **From Njadvara Musa, Maiduguri**

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