

JTF kills three suspected terrorists, arrests five in Borno

• Oyo to protest killing of traders by sect

From **Iyabo Lawal** (Ibadan) and **Njadvara Musa** (Maiduguri)

ANGERED by the cold blooded murder of some Bodija Market traders by the *Boko Haram* sect in Maiduguri, Borno State, the Oyo State House of Assembly yesterday directed the executive to formally protest to the Federal Government.

Meanwhile, in its renewed onslaught on terrorists' activities in Maiduguri, men of the Joint Task Force (JTF), *Operation Restore Order* on Wednesday, killed three gunmen and arrested five others at the Ibrahim Taiwo Divisional Police Station, Baga road at about 2p.m. The terrorists were said to have dressed like women, covering their faces with the *hijab* (veil).

The Oyo Assembly is also demanding adequate compensation for families of the slain traders from the Federal Government.

In a motion brought under matters of urgent national importance by the lawmaker representing Egbeda State Constituency, Ibrahim Bolomope, he drew the attention of the House to the killing of 10 traders by the sect members while on their way to buy foodstuffs and the general insecurity pervading the country.

He lamented that it is no longer safe for one to travel to other parts of the country because of general insecurity.

The lawmaker suggested that the Federal Government Grains Reserves, located at Kolapo Ishola area in Ibadan, should be made functional while traders dealing with grains should be made to go there and purchase the product instead of subjecting themselves to grave dangers.

Other lawmakers, including Yisau Azeez (Oorelope), Adeshina Adeyemo (Ibarapa) and Waliu Adekunle (Atiba) also spoke in the same vein, expressing fears over general insecurity in the country.

"Our people cannot just be

killed like chicken for engaging in a lawful business. Nigeria belongs to all of us. We are not from America, we are not from Britain, we are Nigerians and we should be free to go to any part of the country to transact legitimate businesses," Adeyemo stated.

The Speaker, Monsurat Sumonmu, in her remarks, directed the state government to write a protest letter to the Federal Government on the incident and also demand adequate compensation for families of the victims.

Some traders from Bodija Market in Ibadan were last Friday murdered in Mongunu, a few kilometres from Maiduguri, allegedly by *Boko Haram* insurgents. Bodies of the victims were brought to Ibadan on Tuesday for burial.

According to JTF sources yesterday, 20 gunmen attempted to attack the police station, in female dresses with the covering of their faces with *hijabs*, before the soldiers repelled them after a 30-minute exchange of gunfire.

Yesterday's attack brought to six such attempted clashes of *Boko Haram* gunmen with police and soldiers at Ibrahim Taiwo Divisional Police Station.

The Guardian learnt that the persistent attacks on the station by the gunmen is to enable them torch it. It was first attempted in April 2011.

In a separate incident, the counter-terrorists Military Special Operation Forces (MISOF), in collaboration with members of Borno Vigilance Youths Group, also arrested five suspected *Boko Haram* gunmen in two different locations in Maiduguri.

A JTF source confirmed Wednesday's foiled attack on the police station, saying "but they were repelled by our men on patrol of Bolori and Zajari wards of Maiduguri."

He further disclosed that it was an intelligence report that assisted the security agencies to be on alert before the terrorists struck but they failed for the sixth time.