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Gunmen kill two policemen in raid on station

WEDNESDAY, 21 AUGUST 2013 00:00 FROM SAXONE AKHAIKE (KADUNA), NJADYARA MUSA (MAIDUGURI) AND WOLE OYEBADE (LAGOS) NEWS - NATIONAL



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• Yero condemns attack

• Over 1,000 detained Boko Haram's suspects for trial

• Lagos Assembly urges caution over alleged Shekau's death



GUNMEN have killed two policemen in Kajuru town, Kaduna State and wounded other people when they raided a police station.

Also, over 1,000 detained Boko Haram's suspects will soon be prosecuted in various courts.

Meanwhile, the Lagos State House of Assembly Tuesday urged the nation's military defence headquarters to exercise caution in accepting claims that the Boko Haram leader, Abubakar Shekau had died.

The gunmen who were said to have stormed the community at about 11.30 p.m. on Monday headed straight to the police divisional office in the town where they engaged policemen in a gun duel that lasted till yesterday morning.

Besides, Kaduna State Governor, Mukhtar Ramalan Yero has condemned the attack and called on security operatives to fish out the perpetrators of the heinous crime.

Yero, who visited the community, also assured residents in the area of the state government's readiness to tackle criminals.

Also, in a statement by his media aide, Mallam Ahmed Maiyaki, Governor Yero expressed his sympathy over the attack, saying "this ugly trend has to stop and we are committed to bringing the perpetrators of this attack to book by all means possible."

Yero condoled with the families of the slain policemen, adding that "at such sad moments, our hearts and prayers are with the immediate families of those that died in the ugly incident. We pray that the Almighty God repose their souls and give their families the fortitude to bear the irreparable loss."

He also commended the courage and patriotic zeal of the deceased policemen, stressing: "They died in active service to their fatherland while discharging their duties as defenders of the people. They died as heroes."

The governor also pledged to provide assistance to all victims of the incident, adding that "the state government is to pay the hospital bills of those receiving treatment."

Also, speaking with The Guardian, the State Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) Aminu Lawal said that the Police had decided to comb the vicinity where the attack occurred in Kajuru with a view of apprehending the gunmen, adding that investigation has commenced on the incident.

Leader of the investigation team of the Nigerian Defence Headquarters, Brig-Gen Abdulkadir Abubakar spoke on the planned trial yesterday in Maiduguri when he led other members to brief Governor Kashim Shettima of Borno State on the detained Boko

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Haram insurgents in the state.

He said: "I wish to also state that the team comprises representatives of all the security agents and experts that are capable in making diligent compilation and process to ensure justice at the end of the day under the Nigerian constitution."

He said that the Defence Headquarters sent members of the investigation team to explore ways of handling cases of detained Boko Haram insurgents for judicial option; and in line with laid down rules as spelt out in the four-point terms of reference.

The terms of reference, according to Abubakar, are to study the detention files of all suspected insurgents and categorise them according to their level of involvement; and to classify the detainees for prosecution or as witnesses or for further investigation, deportation or as the case may be; to determine the offences of suspects that could be either by federal or state courts; and make any other recommendations that may be necessary.

He told the governor that since the arrival of the team in Maiduguri, it has done some work, noting the colossal loss of lives and property and also the high-handed indoctrination of youth and followers of the insurgents that are committing or have committed the dastardly act.

While the House commended activities of the Joint Task Force (JTF), they also said, given the sophistication of the character and violent activities of Boko Haram members, "reliance on JTF speculation can be too risky for the nation's security."

The House in a statement signed by its Spokesman and Chairman, House Committee on Information, Strategy, Security and Publicity, Segun Olulade, stated that the Defence headquarters should not rule out the possibility of a diversionary tactics by Boko Haram members, with a view to going underground only to re-surface again after a while, thereby catching the security forces and innocent citizens unaware.

The lawmakers implored the JTF to intensify military operations in the border lines, like Chad and Cameroon, major concentration camps of the terrorist group as well as their hit spots to effectively stem the ravaging menace of Boko Haram activities in the northern part of the country.

The JTF in Borno on Monday claimed that the leader of Boko Haram, Abubakar Shekau might had died in Amitchide, a border community in Cameroun after an encounter with troops in June this year.

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