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## More outrage as Yobe death toll hits 65

TUESDAY, 01 OCTOBER 2013 00:00 FROM SAXONE AKHAINE (KADUNA), ANIETIE AKPAN (CALABAR), TERHEMBA DAKA (ABUJA), ANTHONY CHIDUBEM NWACHUKWU (LAGOS) AND NJADVARA MUSA (DAMATURU)  
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### • Gunmen kill police officer, eight residents in Borno

TWENTY-ONE more bodies of the students who either fled the Boko Haram attack on the College of Agriculture, Gujba, Yobe State, or were abducted by the insurgents were recovered yesterday by policemen and soldiers, bringing the death toll in Sunday's incident to 65.



Spokesman of Third Division Special Operation Battalion, Capt. Eli Lazarus, said yesterday that the effort of the team, which combed the Gujba-Goniri forests, 45 kilometres south of the college premises, has yielded results, as the insurgents' routes and hideouts were still being traced.

He disclosed that more bodies were also recovered in the "trailing and search" for fleeing insurgents in the Gujba and Goniri forests. However, he could not tell the exact number of deaths in the attack, as he explained that the combing of the forests was ongoing.

Sunday's attack followed weekend's assault on Kirawa town in Borno State in which nine persons, including a senior police officer in charge of three Divisional Police Stations were killed.

According to a witness, Ibrahim Wisso, the gunmen, who used Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and petrol-bombs in the attack on Kirawa Market, shot some, tied some to the attackers' vehicles and dragged them along the road, before setting them ablaze.

Speaking yesterday on the attacks, the Borno State Police Commissioner, Lawal Tanko, said that reports on the Kirawa border market reached the police headquarters yesterday, adding that eight people died in the attacks at the weekend, including a senior police officer heading the Damboa, Gwoza and Bama council police divisions.

Also, Governor Ibrahim Gaidam, who was at the Sani Abacha Specialists Hospital, Damaturu, to see the five students there, promised to foot their medical bills. He said these attacks were not only devastating but also heinous and barbaric.

He called on the military and other law enforcement agencies in the state "to intensify surveillance and patrols to deal more effectively with the prevailing security challenges."

Meanwhile, the Speaker, House of Representatives, Aminu Waziri Tambuwal, the Canadian Embassy, the European Union (EU), the Institute of Security Nigeria (ISN), University of Lagos, and 1 GAME Campaign have described the killing of students in Gujba as ignoble, wicked and horrendous.

Tambuwal said the latest act, coming barely two months after a similar incidence at the Government Secondary School, Mamudo, also in Yobe State, has gone beyond the realm of humanity because no reason can justify such dreadful acts.

In a statement in Abuja by his Special Adviser on Media and Public Affairs, Malam Imam Imam, Tambuwal tasked security agencies to change tactics, especially now that those engaged in the killings have increased their attacks on softer targets.

He said the only way to console the families of the victims and Nigerians is by fishing out perpetrators of the dastardly act and bring them to justice. He appealed to politicians to moderate their

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utterances and be mindful of their responsibilities to the country

Similarly, in a statement by Canada's Foreign Affairs Minister, John Baird, which was made available to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Abuja yesterday, he regretted that the perpetrators of the abhorrent act targeted innocent students while they were sleeping.

He added: "On behalf of all Canadians, I extend my deepest sympathies to those injured in the attack and to the families and friends of those who lost their lives," while pledging the country's support to help Nigeria fight terrorism.

Also in a statement from her spokesperson, EU top diplomat, Catherine Ashton, reiterated the body's firm rejection "of such unjustifiable violence," contending that those responsible should be brought to justice. The statement also pledged EU's support for Nigeria in the fight against terrorism.

And in a statement by its Executive Secretary, Adebayo Akinade, the ISN said the attack and killing of innocent students in their sleep was the most wicked of human acts, stressing that those students were neither political opponents, religious extremists nor racists to deserve such criminal assault.

The ISN expressed concern that such immoral killings were taking place at a time nations were doing so much to provide good learning ambience for their youths in order to promote intellectualism in every facet with a view to surmounting difficult challenges of life.

It called on security agencies to constantly review their strategies with a view to pre-empting attacks from the sects and enjoined all Nigerians to show interest in issues of security by collaborating with security agencies in information gathering.

However, the All Progressives Congress (APC) has urged Boko Haram to immediately cease all attacks and embrace dialogue for national peace and security, according to a statement in Warri yesterday by its Interim National Publicity Secretary, Alhaji Lai Mohammed.

The party condemned the college attack on Sunday, describing it as dastardly, senseless and indefensible. It called on traditional, religious, political and opinion leaders in the affected areas to urgently intervene to end the cycle of violence being perpetrated by the sect.

The APC noted: "It is clear that this Boko Haram menace cannot be resolved by the government alone, hence all stakeholders must urgently intervene to complement government's efforts to end the insurgency and get those behind it to embrace dialogue.

"There can be no justification for Boko Haram to continue to kill and maim innocent citizens, especially because the victims are not just fellow Nigerians like them, but most of them are actually their kith and kin."

On its part, Cross River State-based 1 GAME Campaign while offering its condolences to the people of Yobe State over the incidence condemned the act.

In a statement yesterday, its founder, Mr. Philip Obaji, said the group condemns in totality the despicable terrorist attack on innocent students at the College of Agriculture in Gujba. He added that, "there can be no justification for the deliberate targeting of students and those catering for them."

In another development, Governor Mukhtar Ramalan Yero has urged the entire indigenes of Kaura local council of Kaduna State to remain calm following the attack on some Zangang communities also at the weekend, in which 15 persons were killed and several others wounded.

In a statement by his Director General, Media and Publicity, Mallam Ahmed Maiyaki, Yero said security agents have also been directed to intensify surveillance in the area to maintain law and order and foil any attempt by miscreants to escalate the situation.

Yero urged the entire people of the state to continue to live peacefully, while pledging government's assistance to those that sustained injuries.

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Author of this article: **From Saxone Akhaine (Kaduna), Anietie Akpan (Calabar), Terhemba Daka (Abuja), Anthony Chidubem Nwachukwu (Lagos) and Njadvara Musa (Damaturu)**

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