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## 101 feared killed in Borno, Nasarawa attacks

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IN what is seen as an escalation of violence, gunmen suspected to be Boko Haram sect attacked Jakana Village in Borno State with explosives and petrol-bomb in 21 Toyota Hilux vehicles and motorcycles, killing 45 people, including two policemen who tried to repel on Monday by 10.00 pm.

Other property destroyed in Monday's multiple attacks include the police station, a primary school, mosque and several houses and huts of the villagers.

Jakana is on Maiduguri-Damaturu road and 40 kilometres west of Maiduguri, the state capital. The insurgents that attacked Mainok last Saturday also killed 39 people before setting Jakana Village ablaze, 20 kilometres east of Mainok.

And in Nasarawa State, Fulani marauders have allegedly killed 54 people in the past week in the latest wave of violence in some communities in Nasarawa South Senatorial District with over 70,000 displaced.

However, Nasarawa State Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Assistant Superintendent of Police, Umaru Ismaila, said a list of those killed in the ongoing attacks was still being compiled by the police and would be made available to journalists soon.

The latest death casualty figure is recorded from Alosi in Keana Local Council Area of the state where intense killings have been on in the past one week.

Six corpses were yesterday seen being carried on a motorcycle in Alosi to an unknown destination apparently for burial. Elsewhere in Kadarko, another corpse covered in a wrapper was being ferried on a motorcycle on Lafia-Makurdi road also for burial.

A crowd with machete cuts and various degrees of injuries were sighted in a native doctor's compound in Gidan Sule also in Keana Local Council along Makurdi road. They were being treated of their injuries sustained from the attacks.

At a refugee camp in a primary school in Hir Nyam Village, also along the expressway between Lafia and Makurdi, three people were said to have died due to an infection.

Medical sources, who pleaded anonymity, told The Guardian that it may not be unconnected with the wave of cholera, which has been ravaging various communities in the for sometime now.

The state Commissioner for Information, Hamza Elayo, while speaking with The Guardian over the latest orgy of violence in the state, attributed it to the historical nature of Fulani, whom he alleged, are warriors known for revenging the killing of any of their own, hence the continued

attacks.

An eyewitness and resident, Ba Mala Modu in a telephone conversation with The Guardian yesterday in Maiduguri, said the insurgents stormed Jakana village at 10 p.m. with explosives and petrol-bombs, chanting 'God is great' in Arabic and commenced shooting indiscriminately before setting the houses ablaze for three hours.

"The gunmen came in droves in Toyota Hilux vehicles and motorcycles and started shooting, killing and at the same time, pouring petrol on our houses and huts to set them on fire. The people in the houses cried for help, but no one was there to prevent these multiple attacks and killings. Some of us had to flee towards the neighbouring villages, farmlands and bushes. "I am talking to you now from a hiding place in the bush. I cannot get into the village, but the number of bodies pulled out from the torched houses are 35 this morning; and more bodies could be retrieved before noon today (Tuesday), because several people were trapped in their houses when the insurgents unleashed havoc on both lives and property."

He said: "We had to flee when the gunmen struck in the night, some of us fled through the farmlands and bushes. Some of the fleeing villagers trekked to Maiduguri for safety while others are taking refuge in the neighbouring villages with no protection from security agents. My neighbour called me that two policemen were killed while repelling the insurgents, who set the police station on fire."

He said there were no soldiers in the village when the attackers struck, adding that the policemen at the station were overpowered and two of them killed on duty while repelling them that night.

"The soldiers rushed to the village in the morning in their patrol vehicles, and cordoned off the Maiduguri-Damaturu road for two hours, before motorists were allowed to pass the destroyed village in which over 35 people were slain, including 15 women and children between the ages of nine and 12," said Modu on casualties of Monday attack.

Confirming the incident, the Borno Police Commissioner said that armed hoodlums attacked another village on the Maiduguri-Damaturu road, killing over 30 people, including two policemen. Among the property destroyed, according to the police chief, include several houses, a primary school and a police station that was set ablaze by suspected insurgents.

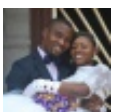
Police authorities also said that since the Maiduguri twin blasts of last Saturday that claimed 53 lives, the weekend and Monday's attacks in Mainok, Jakana villages and Mafa town also claimed the lives of 120 people, including two policemen.

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