

Gunmen Kill Four, Injure Seven In Fresh Borno Attacks

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Violence has erupted again in Borno State, as 30 gunmen suspected to be Boko Haram terrorists on motorcycles attacked Azir village in Damboa council area of the State, killing four residents and injuring seven others in the early hours of Saturday.

The gunmen also torched several houses and shops with Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and petrol bombs, before fleeing into the Sambisa Forest, east of the village.

Isa Yakubu, a resident of Damboa in a telephone interview, said, Boko Haram sect issued a threat letter to the village head early this month that the people should vacate their village, as the Islamist sect group will execute the work of Allah (God) in the night of an undisclosed date.

“Two weeks after the threat letter, we were shocked and terrified by 30 gunmen on motorcycles; and surrounded the entire village, shooting sporadically at people fleeing, before setting most of the houses and huts ablaze. Some of the villagers had to flee into nearby farmlands for safety, while others climbed trees to hide, as the village was burning with plumes of smoke for two hours last night,” said Yakubu, while explaining how some villagers escaped from being killed.

On casualties of attack, he said: “I cannot tell you the exact number of people killed, but definitely four of our people were shot dead, before their children and wives, while fleeing for safety that night along with other villagers to the bush and farmlands. Also seven villagers had broken limbs and fire burns; and they had been taken to an undisclosed hospital in Maiduguri for treatments.”

He added that the villagers were left without security from either the military or police from Maiduguri, stating that before Saturday’s attack, the soldiers and policemen patrolling Maiduguri-Biu road were withdrawn early this month.

This, he explained, enabled the gunmen to cash in on non-protection of the village against insurgency attacks and killings of yesterday.

The Borno police commissioner, Tanko Lawal confirmed the incident Saturday in Maiduguri, stating that four people were feared killed by suspected armed hoodlums at one of the villages in Damboa council area of the state. He said that no arrests had been made yet by either the police