

Gunmen kill two Customs officers, injure four, seize UN vehicle in Bauchi

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- Security team foil another attack, Tiv leadership asks subjects to relocate to Jalingo

UNKNOWN gunmen Thursday ambushed Customs officials between Sade and Lanzai town in Darazo Local Council Area of Bauchi State killing two officers and injuring four.

The incident took place along Bauchi Damaturu to Maiduguri Federal Highway. Reliable security sources from the Army and the Police confirmed the incident.

In their separates accounts of the incident, the officers said the officials were attacked on their way from official assignment in Geidam in Yobe State.

They said the hoodlums shot one custom official dead and set another official ablaze inside their two customs vehicles, which was burnt to ashes.

When contacted, Public Relation Officer of the Nigeria Customs Service in Bauchi, Samuel Ja'afar Gulak said their senior officers are in the hospital to see the victims and after investigation their officers will give full details of the incident, maintaining the issue is above his power on which he could not comment.

Still on hoodlums' activities in the state, gunmen numbering about 20 yesterday stormed Soro town in Ganjuwa LGA of the state and snatched three vehicles which included a white Hilux with reg. no 206 UN 139 belonging to the United Nations, a white Toyota Hilux belonging to BATV, with registration no 04C-04 BA.

Police Public Relations Officer, Bauchi State Command, DSP Haruna Mohammed said one other vehicle was yet to be identified and were all stolen at gunpoint.

DSP Mohammed said that the suspects fired sporadically in the air to escape and a stray bullet hit one Bose Bappa Kari Male of Tudun Wada of Soro town that later died at the hospital while receiving treatment.

He said the combined security forces have cordoned off the entire surroundings and adjourning

towns and efforts are being intensified to get the fleeing suspects arrested.

In another incident, the state Police Command said that a combined security team yesterday foiled an attack by unknown gunmen suspected be terrorists in Misau LGA.

Briefing newsmen, Mohammed said that gunmen in a convoy of three Hilux vehicles stormed Misau Local Government Council headquarters in a bid to unleash mayhem on the populace in the area.

He said that combined security forces comprising the Police and Military, who were on red alert engaged the terrorists in a fierce gun battle and forced them to abort their mission and escape with bullet wounds.

He assured that Joint security Forces are on their trail as the entire area has been already cordoned off in an effort to get the fleeing suspects arrested and to unravel their motive.

In Taraba State, the leadership of the Tiv community not satisfied with the security arrangement by government has directed all its subjects to relocate to Jalingo, the state capital.

The directive, according to the leadership of the Tiv led by Zaki Simon Uosu, expressed sadness that silent killings of the Tiv people by herdsmen is still rampant in most of the rural areas.

Uosu accused chairmen of the various councils, traditional rulers in the councils, as well as the Divisional Police Officers (DPOs) of failing to protect the “defenseless and innocent Tiv people” from herdsmen attacks.

Citing the monarch of Gassol, the DPO and the council chairmen, who have failed to take the plights of the Tiv into consideration, Uosu said the need for the Tiv to relocate to the state capital has become necessary stating, “that is the only way the government would know that we are serious.”

Uosu urged the Acting Governor, Garba Umar to “act fast and deploy security in sufficient numbers to patrol the affected areas.”

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