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Gunmen Kill 42 Borno Villagers In Fresh Border Attacks

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SUSPECTED Islamic militant group, in 20 Toyota Hilux vehicles and motorcycles, in the early hours of Saturday, attacked three border villages in Ngala Local Council of Borno State, killing 42 people. The attack came barely 24 hours after the killing of the

Emir of Gwoza, Alhaji Shehu Idris Timta, and abduction of two other monarchs by suspected Boko Haram gunmen.

Ngala is a border council area with Cameroon, and 138 kilometres northeast of Maiduguri, the state capital.

The seven-hour attack, which commenced at 3am yesterday, ended with the torching of several houses and huts and injuring of 16 other people, who attempted to protect their houses from being razed down with explosives and Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs).

One of the villagers, who escaped to Cameroon, yesterday, told The Guardian: "We were shocked and terrified, when a convoy of 20 Hilux vehicles and motorcycles, laden with explosives and petrol-bombs, burst into three villages of Ngala Local Government Area; and chanted God is great in Arabic, before firing sporadically at persons fleeing the villages. By 5am, the insurgents proceeded to another village, five kilometres away and directed the people to come out for their safety, before setting their houses ablaze."

On casualties in three other villages that were attacked, he said: "After killing our people and torching our houses, many cattle, camels, sheep and goats were also snatched and taken across the border to Cameroon, leaving behind only handful of chickens and ducks that fled into the bush. As I speak to you from this border location in Cameroon, the bodies are still lying in front of the torched houses, and mosques, in which some of the villagers took refuge, before the attackers slit their throats."

The Borno State Police Commissioner, Tanko Lawal yesterday in Maiduguri, also confirmed the multiple border village attacks and killings. He said over three dozens of villagers were feared dead in the Ngala village attacks by suspected armed hoodlums.