

4 | Saturday, June 21, 2014

Gunmen Kill 12 Borno Villagers In Fresh Border Attacks

From **Njadvara Musa, Maiduguri**

AS violence continues to erupt in Borno state, gunmen suspected to be members of Boko Haram terror group attacked two border villages of Ngohi and Bittiku in Askira/Uba and Gwoza council areas of the state, killing 12 people with the torching of 29 houses and shops on Thursday night.

The gunmen, according to Apagu Yerima, who escaped to Maiduguri yesterday, came in 19 Toyota Hilux vehicles and motorcycles laden with Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and petrol-bombs to attack two villages simultaneously, while some of the villagers were asleep.

"We were shocked and terrified last night when these armed men came to wipe us off from this world, by setting

our houses and shops ablaze. And any villager that attempted to flee, they shot him and if he survives, they pursue him and slit his throat. It was terrifying and shocking. They killed three people in Ngohi, where I fled from," said Yerima.

He also told *The Guardian* that Bittiku, another farming community in Borno state, a border villager with Adamawa state, was also attacked with the killings of nine villagers in the same night Ngohi was attacked by insurgents.

Speaking on other casualties, he said that besides the slaying of 12 villagers, the insurgents

carted away 286 bags of maize, millet and beans, including 65 livestock into pickup vans, and fled into the forest in the early hours of Friday.

He said some of the villagers whose houses were burnt, fled to Lassa town in Borno state, which was considered to be safe to some of the people affected by insurgency in the borders areas with Adamawa state.

On whether there was security in the attacked villages, he said: "We never had any soldier or policeman to protect us from these insurgents. They deployed some soldiers to Izge

and Bitta last January, we were told that the soldiers are no more there. Also in the border villages of Bittiku, which was attacked last night, Kirchinga, Dabu and three or four other villages, there is no security provided to these farming and fishing communities in this part of Borno state."

The Borno State Police Commissioner, Tanko Lawal also yesterday confirmed the border villages attack, stating that about dozen people were feared dead, including the torching of few houses by suspected armed hoodlums.

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From **Muyiwa Adeyemi, Ado Ekiti**

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