

NEWS.

Security operatives kill one insurgent in Kaduna shootout

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Category: National Hits: 53 • Print



• Gunmen invade Benue settlement, Daudu

A SUSPECTED member of the Islamic terrorist group, Boko Haram, met his Waterloo when he engaged in a shootout with security operatives, who stormed his Kinkino residence in Kaduna South local council Sunday

in a failed attempt to escape arrest.

Residents in the area told newsmen that the security operatives comprising both plain cloth personnel and soldiers arrived the area popularly known as Sariki about 2a.m and cordoned the area within minutes, while the leader of the team moved to door and ordered the occupants to come out.

Sensing danger, however, the suspects, said to be two in number, opened fire on the security men, who responded swiftly. The gun exchange was said to have lasted for some hour, creating panic among residents.

Meanwhile, the relative peace in some Benue communities was truncated early Sunday when over 20 unidentified gunmen in military uniform invaded Daudu town, a satellite settlement in Guma local council.

Though no life was reported lost, The Guardian learnt from a across section of the residents that the gunmen, who came in three Hilux vans at about 2a.m, broke and forced their doors open and severely beat them up alongside their wives and children.

A security source, pleading anonymity, hinted that agents acted on tip-off and moved to the rented house of the Boko Haram top member, who had fled Maiduguri to settle in Kaduna. It was also learnt security agents have been on his trail, while troops on ground provided support.

According to the source, "unknown to them, security men have surrounded the house. He tried to escape but was shot." Though the police in Kaduna have not officially released details of the raid, a resident, Ungwar Muazu, disclosed that a hot exchange of fire ensued before the team eventually killed the suspect.

One of the victims, ASP Gabriel Akombo, who happens to be in charge of Daudu Police Station, confirmed the incidence, alleging that he came back to see the door of his apartment and those of other residents in the area broken by the gunmen, who also ransacked the rooms. Akombo said he has since lodged a report at the police divisional station in Gbajimba.

Daudu is on the Lafia highway and had been prominently mentioned as one of the villages earmarked for attack during the Fulani invasion of communities in the state.

Another resident and student of the College of Education, Katsina Ala, Joseph Alaki, told newsmen as he battled to mend his broken door that apart from the severe beating he received, the gunmen also demanded from him arms and the whereabouts of one Joseph Tsesambe, whose picture they paraded.

Alaki said the gunmen, who were over 20, went from house to house in their search while ordering residents who came out of their houses to lie face down. A 70-year old woman, Sarah Apu, still with swollen face when newsmen visited, said the gunmen were mainly in their 30s but showed no respect for her age when beating her up.

Meanwhile, Tsesambe, who the gunmen were looking for, said he could not remember having issues with anyone and wondered how the assailants got his photograph. Stating that he has already reported the matter at the State Security Service and the Police Headquarters in Makurdi, he called on security agents to secure his life and those of other members of the community.

However, he state Police Public Relations Officer, SP Daniel Ezeala, said he had no knowledge of the attack yet, as "he was yet to get such information."