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Gunmen attack Borno villages, kill three

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Written by Njadvara Musa, Maiduguri

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GUNMEN suspected to be Boko Haram sect members attacked two border villages of Kwatara and Takaskala in Gwoza Local Council of Borno State on Tuesday, killing three passengers in two vehicles and injuring four others.

Gwoza is a border town with Cameroun.

According to Umaru Isa, a resident of Kwatara, the two vehicles were ambushed at the villages on Gwoza-Mubi road by the insurgents in military

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uniforms who shot dead
the passengers.

“The gunmen initially took over the village by firing sporadically into the air to scare us, and subsequently ambushed the buses at gunpoint, and shot dead two passengers. On sighting the attack and killings on this road, we had to flee into safety in a nearby bush and farmlands before the insurgents fled on motorcycles towards Jige and Patawe villages in Sambisa Forest in the afternoon of Tuesday,” Isa said.

According to him: “At Takaskala village, six kilometres from our community, another driver was also shot dead by suspected insurgents while attempting to defy their flag down to stop on this road. Four of the passengers in the vehicle were injured and taken to Gwoza General Hospital for treatment.” Isa said the gunmen did not kill any of the villagers or torch houses, as they did last month with Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and petrol-bombs.

On how the insurgents attacked motorists despite deployment of

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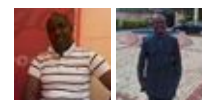
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soldiers to Gwoza, he said: "The insurgents came from Jige and Patawe villages, 30-45 kilometres south of Gwoza town and the soldiers stationed in the town had no information on the road attacks in the two villages."

A former council vice-chairman, Mr. Francis Mbala Nduka, confirmed the two separate incidents yesterday, stating that three people were killed in a road attack by suspected insurgents.

He said the suspected terrorists came from Jige and Patawe villages on motorcycles and returned to the same Sambisa Forest settlements not very far away from the council headquarters.

Sources from the Gwoza Divisional Police Station also confirmed the attacks that claimed the lives of three people.