

## NEWS.

# 25 feared killed in fresh Borno attacks

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FRESH violence erupted again in Borno State, when gunmen suspected to be Boko Haram insurgents operating in about a dozen Toyota Hilux vehicles and motorcycles attacked four villages and shot dead 25 people from Sunday night till dawn on Monday. They also destroyed several houses and shops with explosives and petrol-bombs before fleeing towards the border village with Cameroon.

The gunmen, according to an eyewitness; Modu Bukar, first operated between the villages of Dikwa and Marte towns disguised in army uniforms however, shot any person in sight.

"When we heard the noise of oncoming vehicles, we thought the soldiers were patrolling the road to Marte, but in the background, we heard gunshots in a village close to where we live. On seeing others fleeing on foot for safety, we joined them, even as the gunmen continued shooting sporadically at people on sight.

"We ran into an earth dam besides the road and I, with others swam across the water to escape to the next village, some kilometers away from the main road. Twenty minutes after, we were still hearing sporadic gunshots in the other villages, while people were crying for help, as the insurgents had invaded the other villages along the Dikwa-Marte road," said Bukar.

On casualties, he said: "I cannot tell you the exact number of villagers killed, but my neighbour that escaped the attacks told me that over a dozen of his neighbours were gunned down in Sunday's attacks and killings.

In the other two villages near Marte, 14 people were reportedly killed, while fleeing from their razed houses and huts during the dawn raid by the insurgents."

Confirming the incident yesterday in Maiduguri, a military source, who was not authorized to speak said that the insurgents are on "rampage attacking villages," while fleeing their destroyed training camps and hideouts in Northern Borno.