

NEWS.

14 feared killed in Bauchi blast, Borno attack

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THE relative peace enjoyed in Bauchi State was on Wednesday night punctured as a bomb blast rocked the popular Azare motor park , killing 10 persons and injuring several others.

In the same vein, gunmen suspected to be Boko Haram members yesterday invaded Pelachiroma village in Hawul council,killing four persons and torching several churches and houses.

Confirming the blast to journalists in Bauchi, the Police Public Relations Officer(PPRO), Mohammed Haruna, said the incident took place around 10:30 pm on Wednesday night in Azare town particular round about motor park.

Haruna said that five persons were burnt beyond recognition and were certified dead while 12 sustained various degree of injuries.

He said that the scene of bomb blast was visited by security operatives and the victims rushed to the Federal Medical Centre Azare.

According to him, all the corpses were evacuated and deposited the Azure Federal Medical Centre's mortuary.

"The entire surrounding has been cordoned off and the scene secured by police explosive ordinance disposal unit. No arrest has been made yet and investigation had commenced to ascertain the cause of the explosion.", he added.

A Pelachiroma resident, Yohanna Buba, in an interview with The Guardian yesterday in Maiduguri, said the attack came three days after 10 people were killed at Dzur village in the same council. Pelachiroma is a few kilometres away from Dzur which is a mountainous community harbouring terrorists camps along the Biu- Garkida- Gombi- Yola road where the late Emir of Gwoza, Alhaji Idrissa

Timta, was ambushed and slain by suspected insurgents.

On how the village was attacked, Buba said: "They came on several motorcycles and well armed with AK47 rifles and petrol bombs to target Christian faithful and our places of worship. As I am talking to you now, we have all deserted the village as the insurgents who were chanting God is great in Arabic, vowed to eliminate Christians in Hawul Local Government Area of Borno State.

We are really disturbed because Hawul which is predominantly a Christian community has been under Boko Haram attacks without any resistance."

Also, the Caretaker Chairman of Hawul Council , Dr. Andrew Usman Malgwi confirmed the incident,

lamenting that his people were under attacks by insurgents as security operatives, particularly the military has failed to deploy its personnel to protect lives and property in the council.

"Yes, some of the communities here are currently under Boko Haram attacks; the insurgents ambushed several people along Dzur road and killed many of them before destroying many vehicles last week.

This time around they wrecked havoc in Pelachiroma where they killed three persons and destroyed churches, houses and business centres, but as government we are making frantic efforts to see to it

that security operatives particularly the military personnel are deployed to safeguard lives and property in this council," Malgwi added.

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