

17 Villagers Feared Killed In Fresh Borno Attacks

From Njadvara Musa,
Maiduguri

A violence continue to erupt in Borno State, suspected Boko Haram gunmen in a convoy of Toyota Hilux vehicles and motorcycles laden with explosives attacked Gajigana village, killing over 17 people and torching several houses and shops about 6.35pm Thursday.

According to an eyewitness that escaped to Maiduguri yesterday morning, the gunmen evacuated many food items in shops and stores into two awaiting pick-up vans and fled towards Monguno road that leads to Lake Chad shores by midnight.

"It was God that saved my life along with four members of my family. We had to flee through the farmlands and nearby bushes, as our house was torched. We left behind food items and other personal property that could not be evacuated when the insurgents struck at dusk. My neighbours and other colleagues at the central market fled to Tungushe village and Maiduguri for safety, while others fled into the nearby bush," said the eyewitness, who does not want his name in print.

He said that about 25 villagers were injured in the attack while attempting to protect their houses and shops from being set ablaze by the insurgents.

On how Gajigana was attacked, he said: "We were caught unawares when a convoy of vehicles and motorcycles stormed this village along Maiduguri-Monguno road, and the gunmen chanted God is great in Arabic, before ordering the villagers not to panic, but to surrender their food items and money for God's work of jihad in this area. As some of them commenced evacuating food items, others continued to torch the shops and houses, after evacuating all their contents."