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Boko Haram kills LG Chairman, 11 others in Borno

By Abdulkareem Haruna
Senior Reporter, Maiduguri

• 13 injured in bomb blast

JERE Council Chairman in Borno State, Mustapaha Ba'ale, was on Sunday gunned down in his home by Boko Haram members, who had the previous day killed three others and

wounded a former soldier.

Also on Sunday, another bomb blast in Wulari Mammy Market, a local brew joint in Maiduguri, killed eight persons and injured 13 others.

An eyewitness, who identified himself simply as Abdullahi, said he saw security agents evacuating the victims, and that soldiers opened fire on a Volkswagen Golf car

when the driver disobeyed an order to stop.

Ba'ale, who was appointed Caretaker Committee Chairman by Governor Kashim Shettima two weeks ago, was

attacked in Madinatu, in old Maiduguri at about 4 p.m.

Shettima's Chief of Staff, Abubakar Kyari, confirmed

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Boko Haram kills LG boss, 11 others in Borno

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the murder.

Ba'ale was a former state lawmaker. He also contested the House of Representatives election on the platform of the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP).

Boko Haram had on Saturday killed three persons and wounded a former soldier in the Bulabuli-Ngaranaram suburb of Maiduguri.

The gunmen muffled their guns with pillows to avoid the cracking sounds that would have attract the security operatives on patrol.

Eyewitness said the attacks took place between 11 p.m. and midnight, during which three Boko Haram members scaled fences to kill non-Muslim residents.

Abba Panam, a mason, and two brothers Sani Umar, 35, and Apagu Umar, 30, were killed.

The former soldier, identified simply as Joseph, escaped with several bullet wounds.

Panam's wife said three men jumped into their compound at about 11 p.m. and asked everyone to come out for checks.

They separated the women and asked Panam to lie down.

She recounted that, "They asked if my husband would stop being a Christian and become one of them (Muslim) and my husband told them that no, I am already a Christian. Then they shot him in the head.

"I came out after they had gone and saw my husband ... (sobs) ... the father of my nine

children, dead with wounds in his head ... (sobs),"

The woman's second son who is about 27 years old, would have also been killed but he had travelled out of town to deliver goods with the pickup van he uses for commercial transport. She said the gunmen were dressed like soldiers.

The same sad story was told in the nearby home of the Umars.

An eyewitness recounted that when the attackers entered the home they asked for money from the youngest of his brothers, Apagu Umar, 30, an oil business man, and his wife went inside to bring out the money in the house while they held the Umar brothers down at gunpoint.

"When they got the money, they said that was not only

what they came for and shot them both in the head.

"My brother had told me that some of his business associates are those suspected to be members of the Boko Haram sect; and since after the attack on them in 2009 most of them ran away without paying him his money.

"He told me about three months ago that some of them came back and paid him his money while some others refused to. I believe those that killed my brothers did so because of the money they were owing him and they were not ready to pay."

Joint Task Force (JTF) Spokesman, Colonel Victor Ebhaleme, confirmed that Boko Haram members now muffle their guns with pillow to reduce the sound.