

One killed, three wounded in Kaduna Boko Haram scare

•Bauchi police recover
13 explosives, four
Ak47 riffles

By Patience Ogbodo *(Bauchi)*
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A MOBILE policeman attached to the Kaduna State elite security outfit, 'Operation Yaki', reportedly gunned down one person out of a gang of four masked men suspected to be members of the Islamic sect Boko Haram, sending residents in the area into hysteria on Sunday morning.

The three remaining members of the gang were said to have escaped with gunshot wounds and dangerous weapons through a nearby bush.

The police were said to have combed the area but unable to apprehend the fleeing suspects.

Kaduna State Commissioner of Police, Mohammed Abubakar, who confirmed the incident, however, said the suspects were armed robbers.

"They are not Boko Haram; we will address the press later," the police boss said.

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But according to an eyewitness, residents of the area, including guests in a nearby hotel, as well as worshippers in a church close to the scene of the gun battle, marched out in large numbers on hearing the shoot-out between the police and the suspects.

The eyewitness added that the crowd started shouting, "Boko Haram o!, Boko Haram o!!, Boko Haram o!!!, make una come o!!!," while the pandemonium lasted.

The source, who did not

want his name in print recounted that, "About four people were inside a Peugeot 206; they put on masks, they earlier beat police check-point at Barnawa Junction, but the police later ran after them.

"As the police blocked the suspects' vehicles, one of them (suspects) shot into the air, probably to scare the police, but the police opened fire on the driver and killed him on the spot," he said.

Again, those living in the area told *Daily Independent* that a lawmaker within the

vicinity, together with his family, were robbed in the morning of yesterday in Barnawa area, not too far away from the scene of the police shoot-out with the fleeing suspects.

Bauchi State Police Command also said on Sunday it had recovered 13 improvised explosive devices (IED), four Ak47 riffles and 30 rounds of ammunition from a gulf car intercepted by security operatives last week in Alkaleri Local Government Area of the state.

Police Public Relations

Officer (PPRO), Hassan Mohammed Auyo, disclosed this while speaking to news men in Bauchi.

He said when the car was intercepted, police anti-bomb squad recovered 13 IEDs, noting that two were in Turkey oil tin and 11 in Viju milk tin, with four AK47 riffles loaded with 30 rounds of ammunition and 10 extra magazines.

"Last Wednesday some miscreants abandoned a Golf vehicle with registration number AA 158 Gombe Adamawa State at a checking point in Alkaleri

along Gombe-Bauchi road; the occupants fled into the nearest bush. They were pursued by the military but they did not get them," Auyo said.

He said police have begun investigation into the incident and that they are getting useful information.

The PPRO said no arrest has been made "but we have cordoned the entire area; we are still searching for the fleeing suspects, by the grace of God we will soon get them and they will be made to face the full wrath of the law."