



DAILY

INDEPENDENT

A VOICE OF YOUR OWN



THE MOST WIDELY READ NEWSPAPER AMONG THE POLITICAL AND BUSINESS ELITE

Vol.11 No. 222138

www.dailyindependentnig.com

TUESDAY, JULY 3, 2012

N150

Security threat: Joint Task Force arrests scores in Lagos

By Johnson Ayantunji
(Lagos), Abdulkareem Haruna
(Maiduguri) and Baba Ngedu
(Kaduna)

• Recovers cache of arms • Gunmen kill 14 construction workers in Borno • We'll spare no resource to deal with terrorists, Jonathan vows

LAGOS State Government jointly with security agencies took steps on Monday to pre-empt the threat by Boko Haram Islamic sect to infiltrate Lagos.

A raid by Joint Task Force (JTF) led by an Army Major General resulted in the arrest of many miscreants suspected to be security risks.

The JTF was comprised of security operatives from the police, State Security Service (SSS), Immigration, Customs and the armed forces.

Since June last year, when it first struck at the Louis Edet House headquarters of the Nigeria Police in Abuja, Boko Haram had always made good its threat to hit government establishments and Christian worship centres.

A source told *Daily Independent* in Lagos on Monday that the raid which began at 12 midnight lasted till 6.00 a.m on Monday.

Before the operation, the operatives had embarked on a

NYSC shuts Borno, Yobe orientation camps

|| Page 5 ||

two-hour drilling exercise at the Keffi Road, Ikoyi, Mobile Barracks from 10.00 p.m. to 12.00 midnight.

"Apparently, they did not want to leave anything to

chance and to get the men in the mood for the operation," said the source.

On the zero hour, the security operatives set out and their first port of call was a house on

the Lagos Island where catches of arms and ammunition were recovered from some suspects' hideout.

The raid, our source added, was extended to areas where

women of easy virtue were hibernating.

Quite a number of the women were arrested at the Kuramo Beach.

Among those arrested was a Chinese in company of three ladies found naked along the road on the Island.

The areas raided by the security agents included Berger Bus-stop along Lagos-Ibadan expressway, Ajegunle in Olofin Apapa, Okokomaiko in Ojo Lo-

CONTINUES ON PAGE 2

News

Security threat: Joint Task Force arrests scores in Lagos

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

cal Government area and Yaba, all in Lagos metropolis.

The arrested suspects were said to be undergoing screening at the Alausa headquarters of the Lagos State security outfit, Rapid Response Squad (RSS).

It was learnt that those without questionable credentials among them have been allowed to go home.

According to our source, the operation was at the instance of the state Governor, Babatunde Fashola.

In Maiduguri also on Monday unknown assailants suspected to be Boko Haram members attacked a house in the wee hours of the day and slit the throats of 15 sleeping residents.

Only one of the victims survived the carnage.

Residents of Bolori had for a very long time not been affected by the spate of killings by Boko Haram in the Borno State capital, but they were not so luck on Monday morning when they woke up to behold 14 almost beheaded persons lying lifeless in the pool of their blood.

One of the earliest witnesses to the gory scene, Okoye Matthew, told reporters that he lived adjacent to the attacked

house and heard the yelling of women and children at about 3.30 a.m.

Okoye, who identified himself as a petty trader, said most of the victims were construction workers at the building site of the new Maiduguri Central Mosque and Islamic centre in the precinct of the Shehu's palace.

"Only Chigozie, a young man, was lucky to have survived the slaughter, others were found dead because the killers slit their throats like that of an animal.

"But Chigozie, whom I only know by his first name, was later found still breathing in a pool of his blood."

The attack was the first of its kind for about three weeks now when residents began to celebrate some air of peace.

Another resident, a female, who did not want to mention her name to journalists, said the attack took place at about 2.00 a.m.

"We heard some unusual movements at about 2.00 a.m. but there was no sign of gun shots except some kind of grunting and struggle; we really didn't know what was going on until in the morning when we were alerted by cries and shouting from civilian bar-

racks (the name of the attacked compound)".

The military confirmed the incident but were not forthcoming with details. Spokesman of the military Joint Task Force (JTF), Sagir Musa, did not want to give details as to what happened.

But a senior security personnel told reporters: "We heard that about nine construction workers were killed in Bolori area last night."

Okoye also confirmed to *Daily Independent* that most of those attacked "were construction workers working at the site of the Maiduguri Central Mosque located at the Shehu's palace.

"They have come from various states with the construction company and have been living in the civilian palace for many months now," he added.

Soldiers were seen all through Monday cordoning off the entire neighbourhood of Bolori, preventing even journalists from gaining access to the scene of the attack.

Meanwhile, President Goodluck Jonathan has assured Nigerians that his administration will spare no effort or resources in making sure that terrorists in the country were brought to their knees.

"Our nation has experienced a number of security challenges, particularly over the past one year. I would like to seize this opportunity to reaffirm our administration's resolute commitment to deploying all the resources at our disposal to ensure that this challenge is met head on," he said.

Delivering his keynote address at the opening session of the 2012 Army Day Celebration in Jaji, Kaduna State, Jonathan noted that Nigeria had experienced a number of security challenges, particularly over the past one year, occasioned by activities of terrorist groups.

"The theme of the event, 'Partnering the Civil Society Towards Improved Security', was most apt, as it was a pointer to the Army's responsiveness to the real challenges that confront the nation and its readiness to be part of the process of successfully facing up to the challenges."

The President said the nation's armed forces were primed to ensuring that peace and security were restored in all the affected areas in the shortest possible time.

"It is gratifying to note that the Nigerian Army not only supports peace at home, it is

remarkable that it has also been an effective instrument of promoting and sustaining peace beyond our borders.

"The outstanding work that our troops have done outside the shores of this country, particularly in the various UN and regional Peacekeeping Missions since independence, has earned the country a pride of place in the comity of nations.

"Only recently, I approved a National Counter Terrorism Strategy to give clear direction to our concerted efforts at frontally confronting and defeating the menace of terrorism in our country.

"I am therefore pleased to join other compatriots to salute the Nigerian Army, which, over the course of our history, has distinguished itself as a courageous and dedicated force, totally committed to the defence of our unity and the preservation of our territorial integrity.

"It is also worthy of note that the Army has demonstrated unwavering loyalty in Nigeria's recent political history, and has a clear understanding of its constitutional roles in peacetime and in the nation building process," the President stated.

Lekki threatened as Al-Qaeda