

Gunmen kill soldier guarding telecom mast in Maiduguri

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GUNMEN on Friday opened fire on soldiers guarding telecom masts in Maiduguri, Borno State, killing one and injuring two others, witnesses and security sources said.

And police officers in Borno no longer find it safe to put on their uniforms, as doing so makes them easy prey to the deadly *Boko Haram* gunmen, *Sunday Independent* investigation revealed.

Chezoan hotel area of Maiduguri was turned on fire Fri-

day afternoon when gunmen opened fire on the soldiers and immediately took to their heels before the soldiers responded with firepower standing over their killed colleague.

Officials of the military Joint Task Force (JTF) denied the occurrence of the incident, but relatives of the deceased soldier said they had been officially informed by the military that their son was killed.

A top newspaper editor in Abuja said on phone that the killed soldier was his younger brother, and that the military au-

thorities had contacted them to break the sad news.

"The JTF officials have officially informed us that the killed soldier, Mohammed Sani, my brother, died on Friday in Maiduguri and we are awaiting further details from them," said the journalist (name withheld).

"They did not actually tell us how he died; they only said he died yesterday."

Hassan Malami, who operates a coffee shop at Chezcoan area, said the gunmen numbering about four appeared and started shooting at the soldier

near that telecom mast. "We could not wait to see what was happening before we took off to save our lives

It is gathered that since 2010 when the *Boko Haram* insurgency resurfaced, no less than 100 uniformed men, mostly police, have fallen under the guns of the deadly sect.

Those that became victims were officers who lived among civilians.

"Police officers are either killed on their way to or from office by gunmen who spot them by their uniforms," said a security official.