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# Gunmen Kill 20 civilians in Borno

By Wisdom Patrick  
Senior Correspondent, Lagos

THE spokesperson of the Multinational Joint Task Force (MJTF), Haruna Muhammed, said on Sunday that suspected members of the Boko Haram Islamic sect shot dead over 20 civilians on Saturday.

"Suspected members Boko Haram shot dead more than 20 civilians when a vigilante group attacked them in the northern Borno State on Saturday."

The violence took place on Saturday in Dawashe village, the army lieutenant said in a statement.

He said men from the Civilian Joint Task Force, a vigilante group formed in Boko Haram's bastion Maiduguri to combat the Islamist gunmen who have been terrorising the region for years, entered Dawashe to search for suspects.

Suspected Boko Haram members subsequently opened fire in the village, the spokesman said, add-

ing that the 20 victims were mostly fishermen and traders.

Mohammed said that a dozen other civilians sustained gunshot wounds during the incident but provided no information on casualties among the belligerents.

The toll and circumstances of the incident could not immediately be verified independently.

The MNJTF, a joint military force set up in 1998 to combat border crimes, consists of troops from Nigeria, Chad and Niger.

Its mandate was recently expanded to fight Boko Haram, whose insurgency is estimated to have cost 3,600 lives since 2009, including killings by security forces.

The Chief of Army Staff (COAS), Lieutenant General Azubuike Ihejirika, had earlier at the weekend disclosed that the activities of the Boko Haram sect have so far claimed 3000 lives.

He lamented that the activities of the sect had

also taken economic and psychological tolls on the people and businesses in the northern part of the country.

Ihejirika said these in Ilorin, the Kwara State capital while declaring open the third inter-division and headquarters map reading competition organised by the Nigerian Army Education Corps (NAEC).

Represented by the General Officer Commanding 2 Division of the Nigerian Army, Major General Mohammed Abubakar, the army boss noted that the current security challenges in the country require collective and extra efforts to tackle and added, "the changing nature of threats to Nigeria's national security environment has manifested in militancy, kidnapping, violent extremism and terrorism. It is a known fact that terrorism worldwide is characterised by extremism, violence, hatred, lack of respect for human dignity and constituted

authority.

"The spate of bombings in parts of the north has necessitated the Nigerian Army to review its doctrine with a view to updating our training and operational procedures in order to fulfil our constitutional mandate. Success in this pursuit, therefore, calls for renewed and concerted efforts and initiative.

"I, therefore, urge all of us to remain resilient to be able to overcome the miscreants and terrorist attacks on our psyche and our beloved country through conscientious effort to make good progress. It is in this line that I commend the determination of NAEC to write and publish a book on 'terrorism'.

"This will, no doubt, positively contribute to our determination to fight the present security challenges. The book will also serve as a reference material for researchers on Nigerian Army viewpoint and strategy against domestic terrorism."

PIB: Oil workers condemn exclusion from Senate public hearing

By Sylvester Enoghase  
Senior Correspondent

OIL WORKERS in the country have condemned the ways and manners the Senate Joint Committee on Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB) conducted and ended its public hearing without allowing critical and strategic stakeholders in the oil and gas industry to present their positions.

The workers, under the aegis of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Senior Staff Association of Nigeria (PEN-GASSAN) and the National Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers (NUPENG), made the declaration while condemning the action by the Senate Committee to exclude some stakeholders including PENGASSAN and NUPENG and saying that it was deliberate and not in the interest of the nation.

The workers, in a protest letter jointly signed by the General Secretaries of PEN-GASSAN and NUPENG, Bayo Olowoshile and Isaac Aberare respectively, which was submitted to the secretariat of the Committee located at the basement of the Senate Building and received by a staff at the secretariat, Mr.