

Gunmen Kill 5 In Borno Village

BY KAREEM HARUNA, Maiduguri

At least five persons, comprising four vigilante members and a civilian, were shot dead on Tuesday when some motorcycle-riding gunmen, suspected to be Boko Haram members, opened fire on them in Tuba Village, in Mafa local government area, 40km north of Maiduguri, the Borno State.

According to a resident of the locality, Tijjani Muhammed, who spoke to this reporter yesterday, the attack was targeted at the youth vigilante popularly known as 'Civilian-JTF'.

"The incident took place at about 5.30pm on Tuesday when some gunmen suspected to be members of the Boko Haram sect, riding on a motorcycle, opened fire at residents who were relaxing under a tree, just before nightfall.

"We were sitting in front of our house when we saw two men on a motorcycle moving towards the members of the 'Civilian JTF'. We thought it was an *Okada* but, all of a sudden, we heard gunshots. We ran for our dear lives. Later, we learnt that five persons were shot; four of them died instantly while the fifth one later died at the hospital," Muhammed said.

When contacted, the spokesman of the 7th Division, Nigerian Army, Colonel Mohammad Dole, told journalists that he was not aware of the incident; but another security personnel, who craved anonymity, confirmed the incident.