

Gunmen Attack Customs Personnel In Katsina

BY MUAZU ELAZEH, Katsina

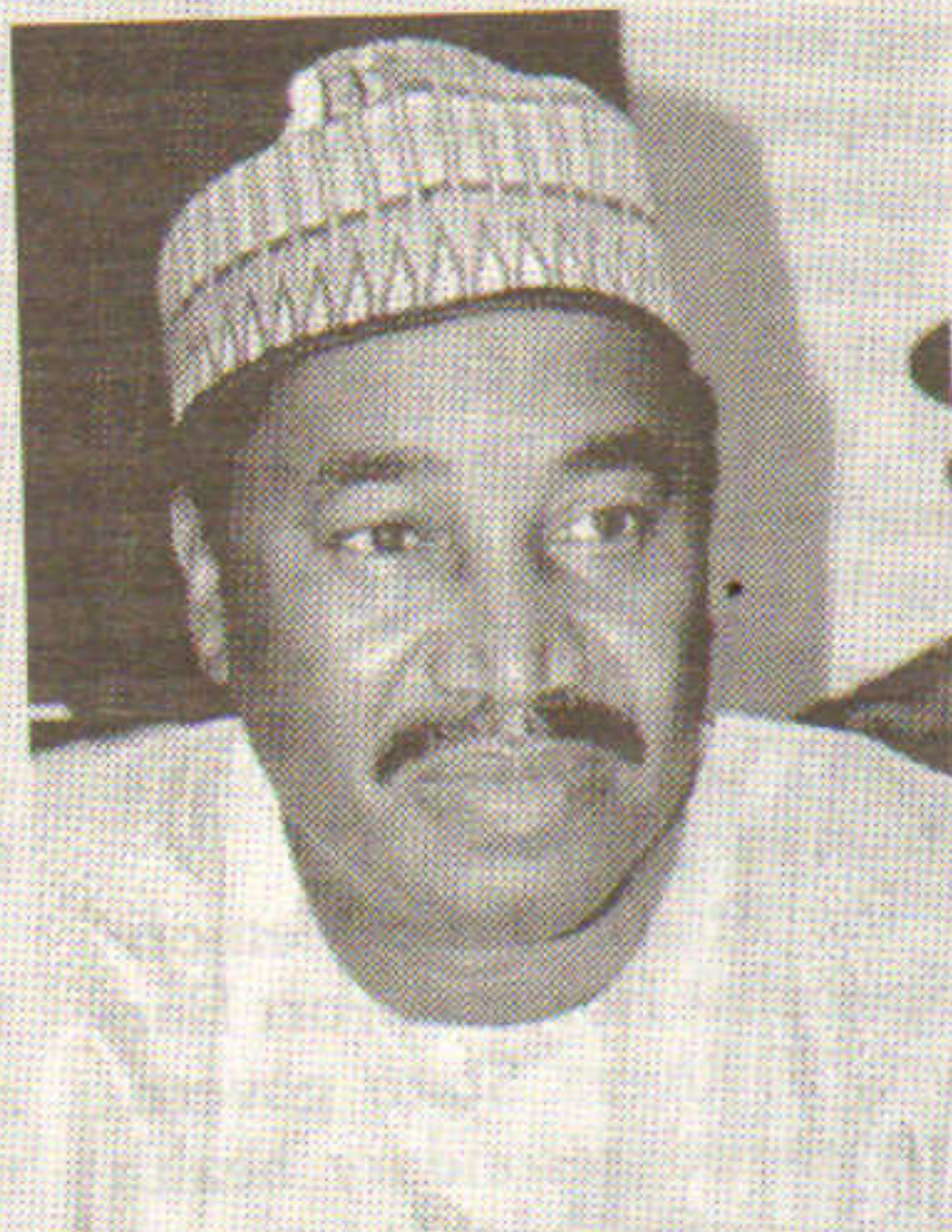
Persons suspected to be gunmen, yesterday, reportedly attacked men of the Nigerian Customs service at a checkpoint in Gafoni village of Jibiya local government area of Katsina state.

The Gafoni checkpoint is one of the checkpoints mounted by men of the customs service to check smuggling along Katsina-Jibiya road.

The attack reportedly occurred late evening when the armed men who rode on motorcycles, met the customs personnel at check point and fire random shots on them.

An unconfirmed report said no fewer than nine custom personnel had been feared dead with five others critically injured even as the attackers reportedly carted away guns belonging to the custom's personnel.

It was gathered that the in-



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jured were rushed to the Federal Medical Centre Katsina.

When our correspondent visited the hospital, yesterday night, he was however denied entrance.

An eyewitness told our correspondent that the attackers were well armed and rode on Bajaj motorcycles insisting "I saw them passed us shortly before we heard several gunshots"

It was gathered that the attackers also went away with some of the customs personnel's gun.

A resident of Jibiya, Musa Ali, told our correspondent that they are living in a state of fear adding that residents ran helter skelter upon receiving reports of the attack.

It was however gathered that a detachment of mobile police was deployed to Magama-Jibiya, a border settlement.

The spokesman of Kaduna/Katsina command of Nigerian Custom, Muhammad Auwalu Giade could neither answer his calls or reply text message sent to him by our correspondent who sought official confirmation.

The incidence is coming barely 24 hours after suspected gunmen killed over 100 persons in a raid at some villages of Faskari and Sabuwa local government area of the state.

23 Feared Dead