

Boko Haram Kills 2, Burns Down Whole Village In Borno

BY KAREEM HARUNA, Maiduguri
with agency report

At least two villagers were killed while an aged woman got seriously injured when gunmen believed to be Boko Haram terrorists attacked and burnt the entire village of Pelabirni in Hawul local government area of Borno State, eyewitnesses and security operatives said.

The attack, which was the first of its kind in that Christian-dominated southern part of Borno State, took place about 10pm when the armed men stormed the village wielding sophisticated guns and explosives which they freely used on the village and residents of the quiet agrarian community.

Though many of the villagers were quick enough to flee into the mountainous areas of Kwajaffa district, two of them were not that lucky as they were caught by the firing of the gunmen that also seriously injured an old woman.

A resident of Pelabiri, Jacob Mari, told LEADERSHIP that "they set every house on fire and shot many people, among them two of our villagers who died; one woman who suffered serious injury is now in the hospital".

A top police officer at Azare, the headquarters of Hawul LGA who pleaded anonymity said the attackers had been camping in the mountainous areas between Borno and Adamawa states and had been terrorising villagers living around the foot of the mountain for some time now.

Musa Anjili, another resident of Pelabirni, who spoke to journalists on phone said "the gunmen invaded our village at about 10 o'clock in the evening on Sunday. They started shouting 'Allahu-akbar, Allahu-akbar' (God is great, God is great). They were attacking everywhere, but in some of the houses, they would order people to vacate their houses without shooting at anyone and set their houses ablaze, saying we are here for God's work".

Caretaker chairman of Hawul LGA, Andrew Usman Malgwi, who also confirmed the

attack, said they have communicated to the relevant security agencies on the matter.

Pelabirni is about 250km away from Maiduguri, the Borno State capital.

Troops ambush terrorists on mission in Yobe, kill 8 insurgents

Troops operating in the north-east have ambushed a group of terrorists on a mission to penetrate and attack Goniri community in Gujba local government area of Yobe State.

This is contained in a statement issued on Monday in Abuja by Maj-Gen Chris Olukolade, director of defence information and coordinator, Joint Information Centre Counter-Terrorism Campaign.

Olukolade said that the mission failed as the terrorists were ambushed by troops on patrol who were already alerted to their intention.

"Troops are still in pursuit of the fleeing terrorist elements after the encounter which resulted in some casualties on both parties.

"Rockets and machine guns were freely used by the terrorists who eventually lost over eight of their fighters with several others wounded.

"Arms were also captured from the terrorists while others fled.

"The troops, however, lost a soldier while an officer was seriously wounded in the encounter," he said.

Goniri is not far from Buni-Yadi where the terrorists killed schoolchildren recently.

The director also said that the troops, operating around Gamboru Ngala and Dikwa local government area, towards the borders of Chad and Cameroun, were busy throughout the weekend.

He said that the troops were recovering weapons hidden by terrorists who were dislodged from the area.

"Assisted by captured terrorists, the troops were led to the sites where arms have been hidden in farms and cemeteries. The cordon-and-search of the entire area is still in progress," he said.