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Boko Haram Takes Over Madagali, Other Adamawa Villages

And CHIKA OTUCHIKERE, Mohammed Ismail

— Aug 24, 2014 | 4 Comments

Gunmen suspected to be Boko Haram terrorists have overrun many border villages of Madagali local government area of Adamawa State and hoisted their flags, barely 48 hours after they annexed the National Police Mobile Training Camp in Limankara village of Gwoza LGA of Borno State, local sources revealed.

Meanwhile, the police high command has said that 35 police officers and men were still missing from the Police Mobile Force Training School in Gwoza.

However, the recent attack on the border villages of Adamawa, according to local sources, was the most lethal in recent times, resulting in many casualties as the insurgents captured many villages in one fell swoop as security

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operatives in the areas allegedly took to their heels.

The executive chairman of Madagali, Mr James Abawu Watharda, while confirming the attack in a phone chat, said the insurgents struck the local government in large numbers, wielding sophisticated weapons including rocket-propelled launchers, improvised explosive devices and petrol bombs, and started shooting at innocent people and setting property items ablaze before overpowering security operatives and vigilante groups and immediately hoisted their flags.

"Yes, some Boko Haram terrorists invaded most of our villages, shooting sporadically and in the process killing many innocent people and destroying a lot of houses before hoisting their flags in different locations.

"We are worried with the spate of killings and destruction by terrorists without the intervention of the security operatives," he said.

Reports indicated that the insurgent attack on Madagali has caused anxiety in neighbouring local governments areas of Michika Hong and Gombi: people were said to be on the run.

The chairman further disclosed that the areas dispersed by Boko Haram insurgents include Madagali town, Sabongari and Kafin Hausa.

A security source also added that, in Sabon Gari 2, churches were razed down while one person was killed at Kafin Hausa before they left into the bushes.

In addition, the chairman added that the terrorists were becoming impregnable as they had a field day killing people and destroying property. They seem uncontrollable even as the security personnel avoided any confrontation with them, he stated.

"For now people are fleeing for their lives and no one can tell the exact casualty, because of the pandemonium that ensued," he said.

Reports say that this development forced some internally displaced persons who ran away from the Gwoza attacks three weeks ago and resettled at neighbouring Madagali town, and residents had to vacate their community following the sounds of explosions and gunshots that signalled another insurgent attack.

One of the Gwoza refugees who was in Gulak after fleeing, Mr Dauda Musa, said that "the latest attack forced many people in Madagali including the displaced persons to flee to neighbouring Mubi and Gombi towns of Adamawa for fear of possible attacks from the terrorists who now operate freely without confrontation from security operatives".

All efforts to get the police public relations officer in Adamawa, Mr Michael Haa, proved abortive as his phone line was switched off at the time of going to press.

On the 35 missing police officers, police spokesman, DCP Emmanuel Ojukwu made the disclosure yesterday in a statement made available to LEADERSHIP Sunday. He however said the operatives were being searched for with very promising prospect of locating

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Ojukwu, who said IGP Suleiman Abba has ordered a tightened security in all police facilities across the country, also said the police boss called on the citizens to remain calm and join hands with the security forces in the collective fight against insurgency.

"It will be recalled that a ferocious attack earlier launched on the training camp by insurgents on 7th August, 2014, was repelled by the police. On 20th August, 2014, the attackers launched a fresh offensive that lasted for several hours where the policemen on duty engaged them in a fierce battle.

"The search-and-rescue party launched immediately has located and brought to safety all police officers in the Training College at the time of attack. So far, thirty-five policemen who are still missing from the facility as a result of the latest attack are being searched for with very promising prospect of locating them," Ojukwu said.

Air Force Plane Bombs Madagali

Meanwhile, information has it that the Boko Haram terrorists who attacked the town of Madagali, where they hoisted their flags after sacking the residents have suffered heavy casualty when a Nigerian Airforce Alpha-jet fighter plane dropped several bombs at them, according to a security official.

LEADERSHIP Sunday gathered from top security sources in both Borno and Adamawa states that while soldiers in the area engaged the terrorists in hours of shootout, an order was sent across for the ground troops to retreat, as the Airforce Alpha-jet was on its way to tackle the insurgents.

Shortly after the troops withdrew, the airforce plane arrived Madagali where it dropped several bombs that destroyed four of the armoured tanks in custody of the Boko Haram, and killed several members of the insurgents at a spot between Madagali and Gulak towns.

An official of the Nigerian police mobile force, who managed to escape the attack told LEADERSHIP Sunday that only two of the six armoured tanks that the Boko Haram gunmen brought to Madagali were able to make it into Madagali, because the airforce jet couldn't drop bombs on it while within the crowded civilian settlement.

Though many residents of Madagali town had to flee from the town during the attack, the over 4,000 displaced Gwoza refugees that are camping at a primary school in Madagali were not affected.

"Immediately after the troops had withdrawn, the jet came and engaged them by destroying four of the tanks and killed several of them outside Madagali; but unfortunately, two of the tanks found their ways into the town and the jet could not fire at them because of the civilians within", said the police source who pleaded anonymity.

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