

has indeed been shut down, but did not give specific details on the amount of production lost.

3.0 Security

Latest Boko Haram attacks highlight lack of inter-State security co-ordination

- > Nigerian security agencies have made a number of arrests following last week's simultaneous attacks by the Islamist sect, ***Boko Haram***, in Yobe and Borno States in the North-East of the country. However, the attacks themselves underline an alarming lack of co-ordination among State and Federal police organisations.
- > Yobe State abuts Borno State, which has been the main focus of *Boko Haram's* sustained attacks over the past two years. The attacks in Yobe came as something of a surprise, since Yobe had been relatively peaceful and was presumed free from *Boko Haram* infiltration.
- > On Friday 4th November, ahead of the long weekend of Muslim *Eid-el-Kabir* festivities, suspected *Boko Haram* members carried out a series of attacks in Yobe State capital Damaturu, in Potiskum (also in Yobe), and in Maiduguri, Borno State's capital.
- > These attacks resulted in the death of over 130 people, including civilians and security personnel. Banks, police stations, government buildings and churches were attacked by large groups of suspected *Boko Haram* militants.
- > Sources have disclosed to Nigeria P&S how the attacks occurred. They state that a truck carrying the *Boko Haram* militants was sighted on the day of the attacks close to the Gombe/Yobe border, obviously on its way to Maiduguri.
- > However, once it became obvious to the *Boko Haram* members that their mission may have been discovered, they made a detour to Yobe State via Gombe State. Once the truck and its occupants entered Yobe, Mobile Police personnel and other security operatives opened fire on the truck, injuring some of the sect members.
- > The truck was said to have continued without stopping, with the occupants shooting sporadically along the road at any police checkpoint or security personnel they encountered before arriving at the centre of Damaturu.

- > At the city centre, they threw explosives from the truck at notable government structures and churches until the vehicle was destroyed by security forces.
- > Police Commissioners in Gombe, Borno and Yobe States are likely to face criticism following the attacks. Reports have emerged that, prior to the attacks, intelligence had been received about *Boko Haram* plans to strike during the Muslim holidays.
- > Reports have also revealed that Inspector General of Police **Hafiz Ringim** had sent a directive to all States Commissioners of Police to be on "*red alert*" during the Sallah festivities.
- > A source is quoted as saying: "*If the Commissioner of Police, Gombe State, had put in place adequate preventive measures as soon as the Boko Haram members made a detour from the initial destination [Maiduguri] they would have been stopped in their tracks. But instead, they travelled all the way through Gombe and successfully entered Yobe State where they carried out their bombings and attacks*".
- > Security agents announced on 8th November that they had made a number of arrests in the wake of the attacks. Spokesman for the Nigerian Police Force **Yemi Ajayi** confirmed that some persons had been arrested but declined to give further details on the arrests.
- > Sources have told Nigeria P&S that the reason for this unusual reticence was that the arrests by the *Joint Task Force (JTF)* provoked a rescue attempt by **Abubakar Shekau's Boko Haram** sub-group and that the retaliatory attack necessitated the withdrawal of the *JTF* from the area. The security agencies consequently decided to keep the news of the arrests as quiet as possible.
- > It is believed by some Nigeria P&S contacts that the attacks were spurred by the *JTF's* house-to-house search in Borno State only a couple of days before the *Eid* weekend. The fundamentalist *Boko Haram* believed that the searches were a violation of the religious preparations for *Eid* and that this violation legitimised their attacks.
- > Our sources also tell us that following the attacks, the Nigerian police continued to carry out house-to-house searches and committed a number of extrajudicial killings in Borno State.

- > During the *JTF's* campaign in Borno, officers claim to have discovered bomb making materials such as fertilisers, chemicals, cables and specialised batteries used in the making of bombs. Islamist literature written in Arabic was also discovered.

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