

Boko Haram kills village head's brother in Borno

Govt to fight Boko Haram, others with N10b gadgets



• Ringim

Boko Haram.

A source said: "The IGP might effect a shake-up to make the Force more responsive to the latest security challenges.

"One of the new features of the restructuring is to make all police officers, from the IGP to the least officer, to be involved in checking any security threats.

"The security challenges at hand now cannot be left to the Commissioners of Police alone; all hands will now be on deck."

The source added: "For instance, all DIGs will now be involved in operations and supervise activities in the zones for more proactive responses.

"Although some officers did not like the idea of the DIGs coordinating operations but the police management felt they have to provide leadership."

The Deputy Force spokesman, CSP Yemi Ajayi, said: "I have not seen the signal that DIGs will coordinate operations. When I get to the office, I will find out."

CORRECTION

The story, with the headline 'PDP aspirant collapses' published on October 27, was not done in bad faith to embarrass Maj. Gen. Charles Airhiavbere (rtd). The fact that Gen. Airhiavbere's reaction is reflected in the story is an indication that there was no malice intended. But since Gen. Airhiavbere feels so strongly about it, we hereby retract the story. - Editor

MEMBERS of the Boko Haram sect struck again on Wednesday

night. They invaded a Borno State village in three lorries.

Their entry into Mainok village, in Kaga Local Government Area - 60 kilometres from Maiduguri - sent the village into panic.

They invaded the residence of the village head, who was not at home but killed his brother Fanami and another person whose name could not be immediately ascertained.

The Boko Haram men divided themselves into three groups as they shot indiscriminately at people and into the air, according to eyewitnesses.

They also attacked the police station in the village, the office of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) and some other government buildings.

Joint Task Force spokesman Lt.-Col. Hassan Mohammed confirmed the incident. He said no arrest has been made.

Lt.-Col. Mohammed also yesterday said there is a nexus between Boko Haram and al-Qaeda.

"Boko Haram is al Qaeda," he said in an interview with Reuters.

"I see perfect links. It cuts across boundaries. al Qaeda has no boundary; Boko Haram has no boundary. All terrorists, one problem," said Lt.-Col. Mohammed, who was dressed in camouflage and flanked by soldiers.

Many analysts and Nigerians

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reality challenges in the border towns and cities.

Also, as part of the renewed efforts in tackling the security situation in the country, a 24-hour surveillance around all hotels that have over 50 rooms capacity has been ordered. Besides, all public buildings and private recreational centres are to be manned by plain clothes security operatives.

The measures, which emanated from the National Security Adviser, Gen Andrew Azazi, might not be unconnected with security alert issued by the United States government to its citizens to stay off some prominent hotels in Abuja.

Gen. Azazi, on the directive of President Goodluck Jonathan, has ordered Ministries, Agencies and Departments

From Yusuf Alli, Abuja and Abiodun Joseph, Maiduguri

doubt the extent to which Boko Haram has global ambitions - the group's avowed aim is to introduce Sharia across Nigeria - but it seems to be growing in sophistication and it is thought they have made contact with al Qaeda's North African affiliate.

The sect claimed responsibility for multiple gun and bomb attacks that killed 65 people in and around Damaturu last Friday, in its deadliest attack yet, which left bodies littering the streets and reduced police stations, churches and mosques to smouldering rubble.

The attacks followed multiple bomb blasts earlier the same day in nearby Maiduguri, including

(MDAs) of government to volunteer capable personnel to be trained by his office on counter terrorism and emergency response strategies.

A source in the Presidency, who spoke on the new security equipment, said it would complement the tracking device put into operation a few months ago by the police as well as the over 2000 units of Close Circuit Televisions (CCTVs) that have been installed in Abuja and Lagos as well as the Aerial Unmanned Vehicles (AUVs), which are also expected to be deployed in the nation's borders.

The source, who pleaded not to be named, "because the matter is sensitive", said the security agencies under the office of the NSA have intensified physical security checks across the FCT

a triple suicide bombing of a military headquarters and three roadside bombs, all shortly after Friday prayers, according to the military.

Col. Mohammed said he had unconfirmed reports two suicide bombers involved in Friday's attacks were trained in Afghanistan.

Borno State borders other African countries, including Cameroon, Chad and Niger, the latter having its own problems with the Sahara-based al Qaeda in the Islamic Magreb.

Mohammed suggested these porous borders were making it easy for militants on either side to move in and out of Maiduguri.

"Maiduguri has been a harbour for people from Chad,

from Niger, from Cameroon. Now ... the people they have invited have now become a source of terror," he said, agitatedly, declining to sit down during the interview.

"I can tell you many people have been co-operating with us and we have collected many arms," Mohammed said, as two soldiers kept guard.

"I must admit that sometimes men exhibit some excesses, but ... We have handed over people to the police who will be prosecuted," Lt.-Col. Mohammed said.

As part of steps to check Boko Haram menace, a shake-up is imminent in the operations of the Police.

It was learnt that Inspector-Gen-