

## Five killed in Maiduguri's fresh Boko Haram attack

**N**o fewer than five persons were killed in parts of Maiduguri, the Borno state capital between Thursday and Friday, according to residents of the town.

Some of the residents, who spoke with journalists on condition of anonymity, said the assassins were likely to be members of the dreaded Boko Haram sect.

The victims included two persons at Zuwa Da Wuri Hotel in Gwange Ward of the ancient town and a classroom teacher.

They were said to have fallen victim to the fundamentalists during an attack on a residence and the hotel popular for selling beer and other liquor at about 1pm yesterday.

Thursday's attacks, according to a police source, occurred at Abaganaram Market in Kofa Biyu area of the town.

Speaking on Friday's attacks, Ibrahim Isa, a resident, said: "As we prepared for the Jumat prayers, we started hearing gunshots at the hotel. We saw people running, and some had to quickly lock their shops and market stalls and ran for cover.

"Five minutes later, men of the Joint Task Force (JTF) rushed to the hotel and cordoned off the entire area, rained bullets for about 15 minutes and left everyone in fear."

Sources at the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital (UMTH), who pleaded anonymity, told journalists that

■ Joseph ABIODUN, ■  
Maiduguri

two bodies were brought into the Emergency and Accident Unit (EAU) at about 2 pm yesterday.

One of them said the two corpses had just been brought in from Zuwa Da Wuri Hotel in Gwange area. He claimed they were fresh corpses and "must have been killed this afternoon (yesterday)."

Confirming the incidents to journalists, the spokesman of the Borno State Police Command, Gideon Jibrin, said: "There were attacks at the Abaganaram Market and Kofa Biyu where two people were killed on Thursday afternoon, but the police area commanders of the two affected areas are yet to send in their official reports on the killings."

This, according to him, would not allow him to give details on the attacks. He also revealed that on the same day, a classroom teacher was shot dead in the presence of his wife and children in Sulemanti Ward of the town.

He, however, said no arrest was yet made in the incidents.

Speaking to journalists on the hotel incident, the spokesman of the Joint Task Force (JTF), Lt. Col. Sagir Musa, said he was not aware of the attacks where two people were killed at a hotel. He explained that he had not been told about it by the men on the field.

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■Yusuf ALLI, Managing Editor, Northern Operation