

Gunmen free 40, kill eight in Yobe prison attack

By [Duku Joel](#) 9 hours 13 minutes ago



DAMATURU, the Yobe State capital, was yesterday the scene of yet another gun battle.

Unknown gunmen, who are suspected to be members of the Islamist sect Boko Haram, attacked a satellite prison in the town, freeing 40 inmates.

Yobe State Commissioner of Police Patrick Egbuniwe confirmed the jail break. He said: “Yes; there was a jail break in the early hours of this morning which was assisted by some armed gunmen suspected to be members of Boko Haram sect.

“The gunmen freed 40 prisoners, killed one prisoner and one prison warder was injured.

“Our men arrived at the scene and fought to retrieve some prisoners and arrest the attackers but, at the moment, no prisoner is retrieved nor any arrest made.

“Some of the gunmen were killed but their members carted away with them their bodies.”

CP Egbuniwe disclosed that a combined team of policemen and soldiers are after the attackers whom he said are being traced to Bundigari and Pawari wards of Damaturu.

Some security sources, however, said that seven prisoners and one warder were killed.

Egbuniwe insisted that only one prisoner was killed.

He said: “Except those seven prisoners were killed somewhere else outside the prison yard. We only saw one prisoner that was killed and we picked up his body and deposited it at the mortuary. This is what I know and I am telling you.”

The CP also confirmed that “some miscreants attempted to burn down a private school at Pawari area, but men of the Fire Service responded quickly by putting out the fire to avert colossal damage”.

The prison attack is the second, coming after the March 28 incident at Damagum satellite prison in Fune Local Government where 14 inmates were freed.

There was trouble in Damaturu last week when Boko Haram fighters invaded the town, burning schools, shooting and setting off explosives.

Residents were kept indoors for hours.

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