

Gunmen kill two in Borno mosques as JTF distributes anti-Boko Haram tapes

By [Joseph Abiodun, Maiduguri](#) 22/08/2012 01:14:00

The violence in Borno State yesterday extended to Biu, 187 kilometres south of Maiduguri, the state capital, where activities of fundamentalist group Boko Haram have been very deadly.

An Islamic cleric and another person were shot dead inside a mosque in the early hour of the day.

A resident of the town said: “Two gunmen joined our mosque for the early morning prayers, when one of us was shot at a close range. He died instantly. Two hours after the incident, another local Islamic cleric was trailed to the mosque by separate gunmen who opened fire at worshippers. The worshippers had to run for safety, but the cleric was shot dead. Men of Operation Flush II rushed to the scene and condoned off the mosque to prevent further attacks and killings.”

Confirming the killings to reporters in Maiduguri, police spokesman Gideon Jibrin, a Deputy Superintendent, said the police headquarters received the reports from the Biu police area commander.

He said no arrest had been made, police would assist them to trail

and arrest the culprits.

The Joint Task Force (JTF) in Maiduguri yesterday distributed thousands of audio tapes of Islamic messages criticising the Boko Haram (western education is sin).

The tapes, which showed Quranic verses denouncing the ideology of Boko Haram, were distributed free of charge to residents.

The distributed materials were mainly from the preaching of the slain Muslim cleric, Sheik Mohammed Ja'afar.

The task force men were seen distributing the tapes and CDs at popular places, including the Ramat Square, Baga Road Central Mosque, Eid-el- Fitri praying grounds, Shehu's palace, Maiduguri-Kano road, Borno Central garage and around the post office.

Many people were seen struggling to get the tapes aimed at weakening the influence of the Boko Haram ideology.

A statement by its spokesman, Lt. Col. Sagir Musa, said the sponsors of the suicide bombers are on surveillance and will soon be arrested.

The statement said: "based on information obtained from an arrested Boko Haram terrorists and moles in the Boko Haram Camp, we intercepted an Improvised Explosive Device-primed Toyota Camry 2001 model car with registration number Borno AA 867 MAF at Tudun Quarters, Magumeri area of Maiduguri on 20 August 2012 at about 6pm by a combined Team of the JTF personnel."

"The vehicle was heading for an unknown destination when it was intercepted. The sponsors of the suicide bomber led by a high profile

Terrorist Commander is under surveillance and will soon be arrested by the JTF.

“This is the deadliest bomb-laden vehicle to be arrested by the JTF in Maiduguri. Had the suicide bomber gotten to its target, fatalities would have been very high.

Recovered bomb materials and incendiaries in the car, according to the JTF, are four cylinders, four DAF gas, three constructed IED, 18 x 9 volts batteries with two switches, 4 x 25 litres Jerry cans with incendiary materials.

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