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# Boko Haram: Bloody days in Kano, Borno, Bauchi

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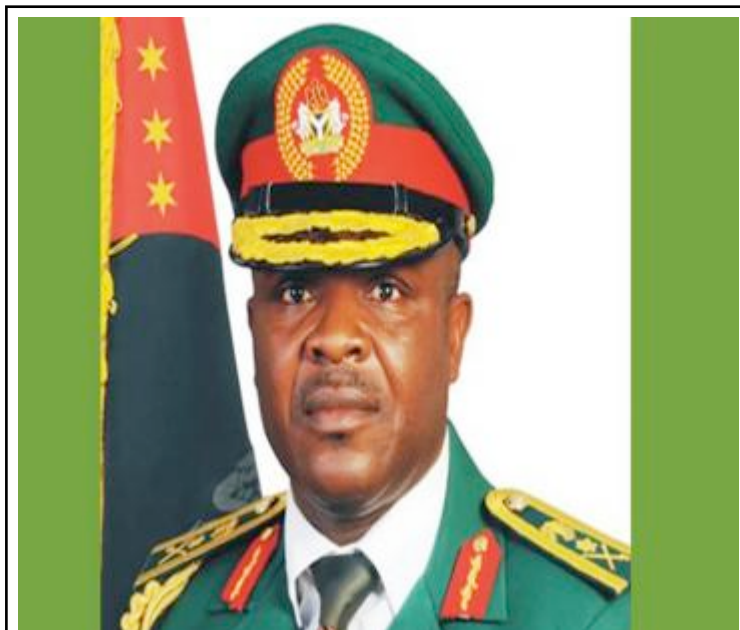
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-20 die in clashes -JTF: sect's kingpin killed

Guns boomed in some parts of the North on Sunday and yesterday.

Twenty people were killed in clashes in Kano and the Borno State capital, Maiduguri.

Gunmen believed to be members of the Boko Haram sect stormed Bauchi, killing nine people on Sunday night.



Chief of Army Staff, Lt-Gen Azubuike Ihejirika

In Maiduguri, a gun duel between men of the Joint Task Force (JTF) and the Boko Haram men led to the death of 10 gunmen. Some JTF members were injured and some houses burnt down.

Yesterday, the JTF in Kano claimed to have killed a kingpin of Boko Haram (western education is a sin). It also declared two members of the sect arrested.

Sources close to the Kano JTF said it killed Abu Qaqa, the Boko Haram spokesman, in Kano after which two others with him were arrested, but the sect had not reacted as at last

night.

A JTF official said Boko Haram spokesman and commander of its members in Kogi State were shot dead at a checkpoint at Mariri, Kano. The official said the men had come to Kano to seek medical attention for the spokesman's wife, the BBC reported.

Boko Haram has staged numerous attacks across the North, killing some 1,400 people.

The military has previously claimed to have arrested Abul Qaqa, but this was denied by Boko Haram officials who said a wrong man had been detained.

The JTF said it stopped a car suspected to be carrying some senior Boko Haram commanders in Kano.

A source close to the military said one of the people in the car tried to escape and was shot. He died in the hospital.

The source said some of the people in the car informed the military that the person shot was Abu Qaqa, the man who signs emails sent to the media on behalf of the group.

Abu Qaqa is believed to be an alias. So, establishing his identity will not be easy.

The woman who was with them allegedly told security forces that the man killed was Abul Qaqa.

Statements are often issued on behalf of Boko Haram in the name of Abul Qaqa, and someone identifying himself by that name has regularly held telephone conferences with reporters in Maiduguri.

Earlier this year, security sources said a suspect believed to be Abul Qaqa had been arrested.

At the time, a purported Boko Haram member confirmed one of the group's high-ranking members was arrested, but refuted reports that the detained person was its spokesman. Boko Haram has been blamed for more than 1,400 deaths in the North.

The group's attacks have grown increasingly deadly and sophisticated, including suicide bombings at the United Nations (UN) Headquarters in Abuja, the Police Headquarters and the Abuja office of

ThisDay.

JTF spokesman Lt. Ikedechi Iweha said an early morning operation was carried out in Hotoro Quarters.

According to him, the suspects were raided and arrested following a tip-off from intelligence sources at an identified residential home in Hotoro Quarters.

Asked whether one of the arrested suspects could be identified as Abu Qaqa, Lt. Iweha said, "All I know is that two people were arrested and I don't know their rank. Therefore, I cannot know whether it is Abu Qaqa or not."

He said the suspects would be transferred to Abuja for further interrogation.

The killing and the arrest of the two suspected Boko Haram members came barely 24 hours after gunmen believed to be members of the sect killed a Civil Defence Corps officer, alongside his wife, daughter and a visitor in his Hotoro Quarters home.

Nine people were killed in Bauchi also on Sunday night.

Governor Isa Yuguda yesterday condemned the killings and the wounding of 15 others in an attack on people at Zango in the Bauchi metropolis.

The injured are receiving treatment at the Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Teaching Hospital

(ATBUTH), Bauchi.

Yuguda described the attack as an act of terrorism.

His Chief Press Secretary Mr. Ishola Michael Adeyemi, spoke on his behalf in a statement.

Yuguda said: “There is no way we will allow criminals and terrorists to continue living among us, terrorising innocent people. We must partner to stop these heinous acts.”

The governor noted that terrorists’ acts are not directed at one direction because of religion, tribe and or political inclination, but every citizen is made a target. “We must come together to fight these evil men. They live among us and we must expose them at all cost. These wanton killings must stop now.”

He added: “Let us allow security operatives to do their work and track down the criminals. We should please avoid anything that will lead to the loss of more lives and disrupt the peace that we are enjoying in the state.”

The gunmen, operating on a tricycle (Keke NAPEP), opened fire on a group of people at Zango, at the Federal Housing Estate in Bauchi while they were relaxing.

No group has yet claimed responsibility for the attack that took place a few metres from where an Islamic group, the Kala-Kato, staged a revolt in February 2009.

Security in the area and in the state capital has been tightened. Bauchi Police spokesman ASP Auyo confirmed the killings.

In Borno State, no fewer than 10 people died on Sunday night during the exchange of gun fire between men of the JTF and some suspected terrorists.

Some houses were also set on fire. The gun duel ensued after a bomb explosion in Gwange ward of the Maiduguri Metropolis around 8:30am.

An eyewitness, Mallam Usman Abdullahi, said: “An Improvised Explosive Device (IED) suspected to have been planted by some terrorists targeting a security patrol vehicle in Gwange Ward, exploded, injuring two JTF men.

Abdullahi said: “Soon after the explosion, gunshots ensued, but the JTF after repelling the attack, quickly cordoned off the area.

“I cannot say whether those killed were innocent people or the houses which were set ablaze belong to the suspected terrorists, but all I saw with my eyes was that some bodies littered the streets on Monday morning, even as some houses were still burning,” Adbulahi said.

A hospital attendant at the State Specialist Hospital, who does not want his name mentioned, said he saw two patrol vehicles of the JTF with bodies, adding that each of the vehicle carried five bodies. This

was yesterday morning. He said they came to deposit bodies of those believed to be killed terrorist.

Also on Sunday evening at about 8:45pm, some gunmen and injured a business man and top ANPP stakeholder in Yobe State, Alhaji Mustapha Sheriff Mashidimami.

It was gathered that the gunmen who invaded the family house of the politician in Damboa road in Maiduguri, demanded some unspecified amount of money, but when they were not able to get their demands from the business man, they shot and injured him before they fled.

JTF spokesman Lt.-Col. Sagir Musa and police spokesman Gideon Jibrin could not be reached because of lack of communication networks being experienced in the state for the past one week.

A former Chief of Army Staff, Lt-Gen Chris Alli yesterday said that for Nigeria to overcome the insurgency of Boko Haram, it must design its operations in a way that will make it impossible for members of the sect to have contacts with indigenes of communities.

Gen. Alli canvassed a change of policy and setting up of operational command bases under the command of the President in areas prone to Boko Haram attacks.

He spoke in Benin City yesterday at the 80th birthday celebration by Dr. Samuel Ogbemudia. He delivered a lecture on the topic: "Reshaping the Nigerian Army Changing Security Environment."

The former Chief of Army Staff called for the establishment of a foreign unit to monitor Boko Haram

interaction with terrorists operating outside Nigeria.

He said: “Activities of Boko Haram in the Northern part of Nigeria have become a major security threat, as the sect pursues an extremist ideology seeking to establish an absolute Islamic State starting with Borno State.

“The sect’s objective is to destroy the present democratic practices and impose its own brand of government.’

Gen. Alli urged the government to provide medical services and basic amenities to individuals affected by Boko Haram activities as well as providing services that Boko Haram could not provide.

He noted that Nigeria Army cannot execute many of its tasks because it lacks “significant airlift and sealift capabilities.”

He said ethno-religious conflicts in Nigeria could have been well managed by the police if not for the teeming jobless youths and proliferation of arms.

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Sylver\_charles

we inherited alot of things from the founding fathers of this country except LOVE for one another...the north is burning by the fire set by a very few miscreants..and the rest of the country wish they burn to ashes...but everything still goes back to the president...it is his duty to protect lives and properties and he swore to do that .....to do that he MUST be unassuming .....as far as our president is concern boko haram is the the hand work of his political enemies.....it serves his interest if the rest of the country sees the problem

as [political.it](#) well earn him some sympathy ....but i tell you one thing, suicide bombing is not part of political thuggery...it involves extreme believe,achieve through long water-tight indoctrination and carefully structured brain-washing information....dozens of Nigerians returns from such training from Somalia ,Yemen etc of course Abdumuttalar who try to bomb US airline is not the first nor the last nigerian , for such training and am happy Lt Gen Chris Ali have identify this foreign influence....and as far as our dear president keep looking at his political enemies ONLY this fire will keep burning .....

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Olodo

this is the most objective comment i have ever seen in this forum

2 days ago in reply to Sylver\_charles

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donik

It is unfortunate that members of boko haram are not relenting in their murderous mission. We have been told of arrest of some of the members of this deadly society but