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Fleeing Boko Haram insurgents attack villages near Chibok, kill 30

Posted by: Joel Duku in Featured, News 2 days ago

No fewer than 20 people were killed on Thursday by fleeing Boko Haram terrorists close to Chibok, Borno State, from where they kidnapped over 200 school girls a year ago.

Attacked were the villages of Gatamarwa, Lehu and Makalawa all of which were torched by the vandals.

An eyewitness said that the attacks began from Gatamarwa market, south of Borno and later spread to the two other communities which are not very far from each other.

A security source said that the insurgents were fleeing from the military offensive currently ongoing in the State.

"What we observed is that the Boko Haram insurgents attacking in this manner are the ones running from the ongoing military offensive to flush them out from their camps in the state," the military source said.

Shehu Bukar Ali, a local official in Chibok said that the "insurgents entered Gatamarwa market at about 9am on Thursday and opened fire on traders in a crowded part of the market. **He said more than 10 people were killed there.**

He added that the same attackers moved to Makalawa and Lehu on motorcycles shooting sporadically before setting the entire communities ablaze.

The insurgents were passing through the three neighbouring villages as they fled the nearby town of Askira Uba, which they invaded on Monday evening, one resident said.

Hundreds of Boko Haram fighters stormed Askira Uba, burning homes and public buildings, despite a regional campaign to crush their six-year insurgency.

Residents who fled the town said they appealed to troops based in Chibok some 25 kilometres away but they allegedly refused to deploy.

The militants fled when soldiers were eventually sent. Some left towards Gwoza, on the border with Cameroon, and the Sambisa Forest, where Boko Haram has camps.

Boko Haram seized Gwoza in June last year and later declared it a part of their Islamic caliphate. The town

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is considered to be the group's headquarters.

The Defence Headquarters said on Thursday that fighter jets had bombarded Sambisa Forest after Chad, which is involved in the regional fight-back, attacked the nearby town of Dikwa.

Chibok gained notoriety last April when Boko Haram fighters kidnapped 276 schoolgirls, causing global outrage and a social media campaign to release them.

Fifty-seven managed to escape but 10 months on, 219 are still being held.

Reports from Adamawa State last night said Boko Haram terrorists also killed up to 40 residents of Gaya-fa and Zang, both close to the Sambisa forest in Borno which has come under severe bombing by the air force in a bid to smoke out the insurgents hiding and training there.

Premium Times quoted a resident as saying that the hoodlums "ransacked our villages for almost two days, they first attacked Gaya-fa in a killing spree, over 30 people were shot."

The residents were able to regroup and succeeded in repelling the invaders only for the terrorists to return Friday with more fury, killing over 10 people."

"We are set to repel them now," said the resident, Baba Jibrin, who is the chief hunter of the area.

Other residents said the insurgents also set fire on several buildings in the communities, looting home utensils and food stuff, including mattresses.

Another fleeing resident said, "They killed over 30 people and burned down several buildings in the community."

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