

Nine worshippers killed in Niger mosque attack

- 20 abducted policemen rescued in Yobe

By Justina Asishana, Minna On Dec 10, 2021



By Justina Asishana, Minna and Okodili Ndidi, Abuja

Police in Niger said yesterday that gunmen killed nine worshippers observing their morning prayers at a mosque in Ba'are community in Mashegu council of the state.

The assailants reportedly stormed the community on motorcycles, shooting intermittently as they headed for the mosque where they opened fire on the faithful.

Ten persons were injured in the attack, it was said.

But locals said 16 persons were shot dead in the incident, which occurred on Wednesday morning.

Commissioner of Police, Monday Bala Kuryas, told *The Nation* on the phone that nine persons were killed, adding that security personnel had been drafted to the area.

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Bandits killed 18 worshippers in Maza kuka village in the same council some months ago.

In Yobe, 20 policemen abducted by terrorists during an attack on a police division at Buni Yadi were rescued by troops of Operation Hadin Kai, the Defence Headquarters said yesterday.

Acting Director, Defence Media Operations, Brig.-Gen Bernard Onyeuko said the policemen were rescued during military operations in the last two weeks.

He said 62 terrorists were killed, 28 arrested, some with their families within the period.

“Operation Hadin Kai troops’ operational activities within the last two weeks recorded significant results in the various operations they carried out. On December 3, 2021, troops repelled BHT/ISWAP terrorists’ attack in a fierce gun battle in Kala Balge LGA of Borno State.

“During the encounter, troops subdued the terrorists with superior firepower and neutralised no fewer than 26 of them. Troops also destroyed as well as captured several fighting equipment and vehicles of the terrorists. Regrettably, our gallant officers and soldiers paid the supreme prize. They are our heroes in the battle against terrorism.”

He said troops also hit the terrorists in some locations in Adamawa and Borno states, culminating their surrender.

“Cumulatively, 62 terrorists were neutralised and 28 of them were arrested, while 54 assorted arms and 144 rounds of different calibre of ammunition were recovered.”