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📅 16.Apr.2014 | DISQUS_COMMENTS | 👤 James Bwala - Maiduguri



AN unidentified number of gunmen have reportedly attacked **Chibok Local Government Area of Borno State**, destroying government properties, including the only girls secondary school in the area.

Local residents told Nigerian Tribune that the gunmen, who attacked the local government at about 11:30 p.m. and 1.00 a.m. on Monday and Tuesday respectively, were also believed to have abducted 136 girls from Government Girls Secondary School (GGSS), Chibok and burnt down the school.

Chibok Local Government is about 130 kilometres from Maiduguri, the Borno State capital and about 42 kilometers from Damboa Local Government, which is said to have been the third base of Boko Haram insurgents after Gwoza Local Government in the southern Borno axis.

Malam Wada Chibok, a resident, told Nigerian Tribune on phone that several people were also missing as death toll is put at 16.

According to him, "We are yet to ascertain whether there are civilian casualty, but a soldier and a police officer were killed during the attack."

We are devastated, the attackers came shooting sporadically, some of the security personnel who could not stand the fire power of the attackers took to their heels, but for the bravery of some locals who stood their ground and fought, the gunmen would have over run the whole local government."

When Nigerian Tribune asked how the gunmen forced almost 136 students to go with them when government is said to have close down all schools in Borno for the fear of Boko Haram attacks, Wada said, there were still students in the school, though he could not give proper reasons for this.

"Government may have closed down schools but here, we still have students in school, perhaps they are still having some classes or waiting to write exams and of course most of them are either from Chibok or Damboa and the surrounding villages but we were told that many girls were carried away, the story is that they are up to 136. I cannot tell you that is exactly what happened

but that is what I heard,” Wada said.

Malam Yusuf Adamu, a local government staff, told Nigerian Tribune that, “the Boko Haram burnt down our secretariat, they burnt down our school, and many houses were also burnt down. I do not know for now if any church was attacked but I will ask a pastor friend who is currently in Chibok to find out if they had attacked churches in the area, but from what we were told by our relations there, the attack was bad, many people have died and properties running into millions of Naira destroyed. This is sad for us as we cannot get to our village and our people are continuously a target of destruction.”

In the last two weeks Borno State has been under series of attacks by the Boko Haram insurgents claiming more than 500 lives in Bama, Kala-Balge, Dikwa, Ngala, Abadam, Kukawa, Damboa, Gwoza and Chibok as well as attacks on the highways. Over 6,000 people are also said to have been displaced by continuous attacks in the villages around Borno State making life very difficult for the people.

Speaking with a Kibaku man from Chibok Local Government, who is resident in Maiduguri, Malam Haruna Ndirmbula, he said for over three years he has not been going to farm in his village due to fear of Boko Haram and that the salary he is receiving as a clerk is not enough to take care of his family of six.

According to him, “Two of my children have to drop out of school because I cannot pay school fees, my daughter who is also helping the family is now a widow because Boko Haram killed her husband last year. I cannot go to the farm, life is actually unbearable as we have to depend on people most times for food. Now, two of my uncles who are displaced by Boko Haram have run to Maiduguri for refuge in my house. I cannot tell you how I am feeling now because I am feeling like a living dead man.

The Borno State Police Commissioner, Tanko Lawan, in his reaction, confirmed the kidnap of the girls to journalists. He, however, declined comments on the exact number of students affected.

“We have received the report about the kidnapping of students by gunmen in a school in Chibok Local Government Area last night,” Mr. Lawan said, adding: “But we have no details on the actual number of the students for now; our men are still on the trail of the abductors.”

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