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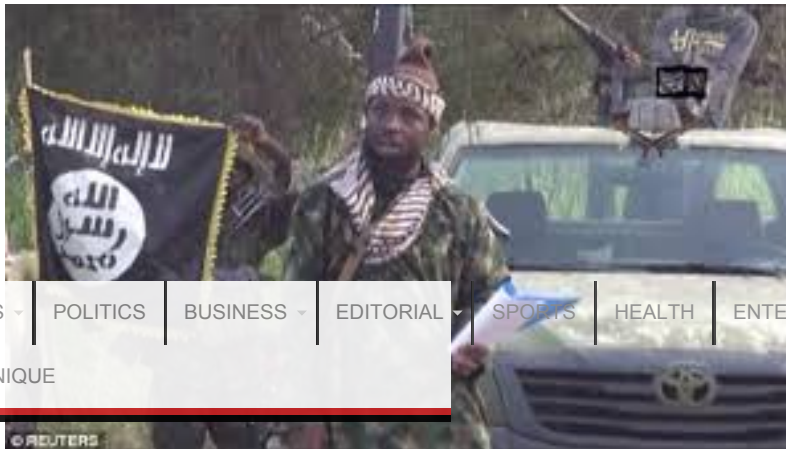
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## Boko Haram beheads seven in Borno

Posted by: Barnabas Manyam, Yola in Featured, News 2 days ago

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Boko Haram militants yesterday killed seven people in Ngamdu, Borno State in an overnight raid.

Residents and an official said reports indicated that the victims were beheaded in a revenge attack by the sect, which suffered some reverses recently.

Borno, along with Adamawa and Yobe states, under a state of emergency, have been hardest hit by the five-year-old insurgency.

When locals woke up, they discovered "seven people had been brutally killed", said resident Musa Abor, according to French News Agency (AFP)

The gunmen "slit their (victims) throats just the way people slaughter goats", he added.

Abor and a Borno State official, who asked that his name be withheld, said the bodies had been decapitated, in the latest act of gruesome violence blamed on the Islamists who have killed more than 10,000 people since 2009.

In recent months, Boko Haram insurgents have targeted reprisal attacks at locals who have fought alongside the military as vigilantes.

An army officer in Borno, who also requested for anonymity, said 15 Boko Haram fighters were killed in clashes in Ngamdu two weeks ago and the group had vowed revenge against the community.

Those killed yesterday could not immediately be identified as vigilantes and the Defence Headquarters was not available to comment on the attack or the alleged beheadings.

The violence came as Muslims marked the Eid al-Adha festival.

The militants are thought to be in control of more than two dozen towns and villages in the northeast, but the military has vowed to retake all lost ground as part of a continuing offensive.

The military imposed a travel ban across Borno and neighbouring Yobe State to last through the Eid holiday to guard against insurgent attacks.

But the measure is almost impossible to enforce in the remote region, where analysts say the army does not have enough troops on the ground to patrol a vast area with a terrible road network and poor mobile phone coverage.

Also yesterday, the Catholic Church claimed that its 154 parishes have been lost to the insurgents.

Stating that at least three local government areas in Borno and Adamawa states are completely under the control of Boko Haram, the Director of Social Communication, Catholic Diocese of Maiduguri, Rev. Fr. Gideon Obasogie, in a statement titled: "While our people perish" said: "As a church, we are really going through a severe moment of persecution. The ecclesial circumscription is facing sharp disintegration. In the

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