

# Gunmen invade Minna prison, free inmates

ADELOWO OLADIPO - MINNA

**H**EAVILY armed men, suspected to be members of Boko Haram insurgent, on Saturday, invaded a medium facility of the Nigeria Prisons Service (NPS), in Minna, the Niger State capital, and freed about 30 inmates.

The incident occurred between 4.30 p.m. and 4.45 p.m., when the armed men, numbering about 15, forcefully gained entry into the prison and engaged the five prison guards on duty in a gun duel.

**Sunday Tribune** further gathered that at the end of the gun battle, which lasted for between five and 10 minutes, the gunmen allegedly succeeded in freeing the said inmates.

It was further learnt that after the attack, three prison guards sustained various degrees of injury.

They were said to have been placed on admission at the emergency section of an undisclosed public hospital in Minna, while a man, whose identity was not immediately known, was shot dead by the rampaging gunmen.

An eye witness account informed the **Sunday Tribune** that the armed men, after allegedly freeing the prison inmates, escorted them to a nearby bush and asked them to remove their uniforms and run for dear life.

The source, who craved for anonymity, disclosed further that the armed men later snatched a **Honda** car from its owner and escaped in it.

When contacted, the Public Relations Officer, Niger State Command of the Nigeria Prisons Service Mr Rabi'u Shuaibu Mohammed, confirmed the incident, but said it

was an attempted jail-break.

He added that the authorities of the State Prisons Command had solicited the assistance of other security agencies in the state to bring the situation under control.

Also, in his reaction the

Police Public Relation Officer, Niger State Police Command, Mr. Ibrahim Abiodun Gambari, while confirming the incidence said some arrests had been made in connection with the incident.

He added that the police had recovered a **Toyota**

**Siena** space bus in which the gunmen were trying to escape with, stressing that about six of the inmates set free by the gunmen had also been arrested by the police.

"We also recovered six rifles and a riot gun, including live ammunition

inside the **Siena Space** bus, but the prisons authorities could not yet ascertain the exact number of inmates that escaped from the prison custody until they check their records," said Gambari.

Meanwhile, a detachment of military, the po-

lice and men of the State Security Service has been deployed to the area while all residents of the community hosting the prison have been directed to stay indoor until further notice in order not to fall victim of stray bullets from the opposing camps.

## Cyber terrorism soon to replace plane hijacking — German group

CYBER attacks and commercial drones now pose a growing risk of commercial aeroplane crashes, a major insurer has said.

According to **Daily-Mail UK**, technical advances in aircraft design and navigation systems have reduced the chance of dying in a plane crash, but the reliance on computers poses new types of risks.

"Cyber terrorism may replace the hijacker and bomber and become the weapon of choice on attacks against the aviation community," German insurer Allianz said in a review of aviation safety, publicly expressing concerns that others insurers have discussed in private.

The International Air Transport Association has been working to improve cyber security including the launch this year of a toolkit to help airlines assess and mitigate risks in

their IT systems.

"Aviation relies on computer systems extensively in ground and flight operations and air traffic management, and we know we are a target," IATA Director General Tony Tyler said at a conference in October.

Another potential threat comes from commercial drones, whose use is expanding in surveillance, crop dusting, news gathering and sporting events and for which there is no standard international regulation.

"The potential risks are obvious, namely collision or third-party damage or injury and resulting liability," Allianz said.

The skies are growing crowded, with IATA estimating around 16 billion passengers in 2050, compared with 3.3 billion in 2014.

Increasing safety had pushed down airlines' in-

surance premiums until this year, when losses including two Malaysia Airlines jets are expected to boost claims to a record \$800 million (£515 million).

Technology has played a major role in steadily reducing deaths to less than two per 100 million passengers on commercial flights from 133 in the 1960s, but it is also boosting the cost of aircraft and

value of claims.

Allianz estimated the insured value of airline fleets will rise to more than \$1 trillion within the next five years from less than \$900 billion currently.

Technology, particularly increasing automation in modern planes, also has been under a spotlight since the 2009 crash of Air France flight 447 after pilots lost control of an A330

jet on a flight from Brazil to France.

Pilots need more training if systems fail, Allianz said. 'Improvements have to be made, especially to get rid of passivity in the cockpit due to automation.'

A German pilots group also is calling for more training and checks in 'manual' flying to ensure pilots have regular practice should computers fail.

## Minister accuses France, West African countries of aiding Boko Haram

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there, we look at our tactics, military operation and suspect some subversive tendencies in the armed forces.

"The Inspector-General of Police (IGP) is from the North. The National Security Adviser (NSA) is from the North. The Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) is from

the North. So, why must anyone blame the president? I think we should appreciate what the man is doing by mobilising all these forces.

"So, if there's problem, we should ask questions from the military and troops. Warfare or counter-terrorism is not just about the president. A lot

of factors come in military strategy. And one of it is what I call Grand National strategy. I think we should appreciate the president on what he has done and see how we can collectively devise other mechanisms to get solution to the problem, rather than heaping blame on president.

"Yes, it's a political issue, but fundamentally, a military issue. And I am not saying they have not tried," he said.

## Suspected NURTW members remove Ladoja's billboard

BY DARE ADEKANMBI AND OLAWALE OLANIYAN

A giant billboard selling the candidature of Senator Rashidi Ladoja, a former governor of Oyo State and Accord Party candidate for the 2015 governorship election in the state, has been removed.

The billboard, mounted at the third gate of the pop-

ular Bola Ige International market formerly known as Gbagi market, had its flex which contained Ladoja's image scissored by hoodlums less than 24 hours after it was erected.

Ladoja's chief press officer, Alhaji Lanre Latinwo, who stated this in a release made available to **Sunday Tribune**, claimed the billboard was removed

by some members of the state National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW).

Latinwo said the NURTW team that carried out the removal was led by one man identified simply as Alale and acted on instruction from Ladoja's political opponent.

Reacting, the state NURTW chairman, Al-

haji Taofeek Oyerinde, told **Sunday Tribune** he did not know anything about the incident, as he had no shop or office in Gbagi.

He challenged Ladoja to arrest anyone suspected to have carried out the dastardly act, adding that he had been preaching peace among the union members since his assumption of office.

### Troops kill terrorists in Ashaka raids

In another development, fleeing terrorists reportedly managed to retrieve three truckloads of their dead members, following defeat in Ashaka when they were engaged by security operatives.

The defeated terrorists, who arrived in a large convoy of 30 vehicles, motorcycles and equipment, were on a mission to take control of Ashaka.