

Mistaken identity: Soldiers open fire on colleagues, TCN staff in Borno

Kill 1, injure 2

JAMES BWALA - MAIDUGURI

A team of the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) accompanied by military escort, who were on the mission to repair broken transmission line near Benesheikh along Maiduguri/Damaturu road suffered another setback, following the killing of one of the TCN staff, while two soldiers and another staff of TCN sustained injuries.

The setback came on Sunday, when soldiers stationed in Benesheikh to check the activities of Boko Haram, who took over the Maiduguri/Damaturu Road on Friday and Saturday, slaughtering 11 people, mistakenly thought that the TCN staff and escort were members of the Boko Haram, as no communication was put through to the soldiers as regard the broken transmission line before the TCN staff set out for repair work.

A staff of TCN, Ibrahim Garba, told the *Nigerian Tribune* that the situation could have been averted if the soldiers were informed.

"That is the danger of working in a volatile area like Borno State. One of our drivers is still missing, while one of the injured staff and the two soldiers are receiving

treatment at the General Hospital, while two vehicles of the TCN and that of the military were destroyed," he added.

A Maiduguri resident, Alhaji Muhammadu Kabir, who frowned at the way and manner companies and security authorities were playing with people's lives, said lack of proper co-ordination

between companies and security agencies in Borno State and the North-East in general had resulted in the loss of hundreds of innocent staff, as the Benesheikh episode was just one out of many and nobody seemed to be taking caution.

"It is unfortunate that there is no co-ordination between our security agencies,

even within the Army, who are supposed to be the same arm of the security. I wonder how they can win the war against Boko Haram without proper co-ordination, when at many instances, they shot at themselves," he said.

He called on President Muhammadu Buhari to restructure and reposition the

military for effective war against insurgency, stressing that some of the officers had overstayed in Maiduguri and they did not want to leave because of what they have been gaining from the war.

It will be recalled that some weeks ago, five soldiers, on similar mission, were also killed along Maiduguri/Damboa Road.

KOLA OYELERE - KANO

A former Jigawa State governor, Alhaji Sule Lamido, who alongside his two sons and one of his business associates were ordered by the Kano Federal High Court to be remanded in Kano prison over an alleged financial

against them have been flown to Abuja for possible grant of bail.

It will be recalled that last Thursday, the court ordered that Alhaji Lamido, his two sons and business associate be remanded in Kano prison over an alleged N1.3 billion fraud charge

Economic Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC).

According to a reliable source within the premises of the prison, who preferred anonymity, "Lamido, his sons and his business partner have been moved to Abuja and they may be released very soon or let off

Many notable politicians have berated the order of the court ordering him to be put in jail, as according to them, it was an infringement on the rights of the former governor not to be granted bail, while others who were arrested by the EFCC had been granted bail.