

Boko Haram: 150 fleeing Yobe residents shot, drowned

A BOUT 150 people
got drowned or
were shot dead
while fleeing Boko
Haram gunmen who raided
a village in Yobe State, locals
said on Tuesday.

Dozens of insurgents arrived on motorcycles and in a car on Thursday, last week and opened fire, scattering terrified residents of Kukuwa-Gari.

"They opened fire instantly, which forced residents to flee. They shot a number of people. Unfortunately, many residents who tried to flee, ~~finding the road~~ ^{which} was full from the rain. Many drowned," Modu Balumi, a resident of the village told *Nigerian Tribune*.

"By our latest toll, we have 150 people either shot dead or drowned in the attack. The gunmen deliberately killed a fisherman, who tried to save drowning residents."

Balumi said the bodies of many who drowned were recovered by locals several kilometres away.

News of the attack was late to emerge, because the insurgents had destroyed telecoms masts around the village, 50 kilometres (30

miles) from Yobe State capital, Damaturu, since the insurgency began in 2009.

“Boko Haram attacked our village on Thursday, which led to the death of about 150 people. Most of the victims died in the river while trying to escape. The

gunmen opened fire on the village, forcing people to scamper for safety," Bukar Tijjani, another villager, said.

"Most residents, particularly women and children, ran towards the river in confusion. They were pursued

by the gunmen, who kept firing at them. In an effort to escape, they jumped into a river, which was full to the brim," he said.

A local government official confirmed the attack, but put the death toll much lower, saying it was about 50.

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