

# Gunmen attack Jos prison, four feared killed

Isaac Shobayo | Jos

**T**HERE was pandemonium in Jos, the Plateau State capital, on Sunday as gunmen suspected to be Boko Haram terrorists attacked the Jos Correctional Centre.

A source close to the centre told Nigerian Tribune that the attack occurred at about 4:30 p.m., when a group of young men who had positioned themselves around the vicinity of the facility made incursion into the centre in an attempt to free inmates.

The source said the attackers were heavily armed with AK-47 rifles and other dangerous weapons and engaged guards at the centre in a gun battle which lasted for close to 30 minutes.

The source said some of the attackers were able to penetrate the yard, while some of the guards and staff of the correctional centre sustained gunshot wounds.

It was gathered that four of the attackers were killed during the operation, while men of the correctional centre were still combing the yard to fish out those

who might still be lurking within with premises.

The source said: "The gun duel with the attackers lasted for close to 30 minutes. The men on ground were able to repel them and killed four, but there are indications that some of them [attackers] gained access into the yard and mixed up with inmates. So there is an ongoing effort to fish them out. Well, to the best of my knowledge, no inmate escaped."

Some of those living within the vicinity of the correctional centre said they

saw some of the attackers with AK-47 rifles trying to escape in tricycles while the attack was ongoing.

The road leading to the Police Headquarters in Jos and the Correctional Centre was deserted immediately and shops around the area hurriedly closed.

There was also a report that some inmates escaped, but this could not be confirmed as of the time of filing this report.

Confirming the attack, the Public Relations Officer (PRO) of the Correctional Centre, Francis Enobore, in a state-

ment on Sunday, said the Medium Security Custodial Centre in Jos, Plateau State came under attack by gunmen who reportedly stormed the facility in large numbers with sophisticated weapons.

He said the invaders were said to have arrived at the custodial center at about 5:20 p.m. and immediately made for the main gate where they engaged the armed squad personnel in a gun battle before breaking into the yard.

"Although they gained entrance to the yard, they are, however, trapped within

as men from sister security services were immediately mobilised to assist the armed guards to cordon the perimeter wall and the entire area.

"Reinforcement from the response squad of the Service has also been mobilised to the centre."

He said the situation is presently under control as the attackers firing power is being subdued by superior fire from a combined team of security agencies, adding that updates would be made available as event unfolds.

Three die in Lagos lorry