

news

Gunmen kill family of six in Kaduna raid

David Attah, Kaduna

SIX members of a family were on Thursday killed in Madauchi, near Zonkwa in Zango-Kataf Local Government of Kaduna State.

The killing, it was learnt, was carried out by about 20 gunmen suspected to be Fulani herdsmen.

The incident, which took place between 11pm and 2am, was allegedly targeted at Mr. Yakubu Kayit' house.

An eyewitness told our correspondent that when the gunmen arrived in the village, they shot sporadically into the air for over 30 minutes.

The killings immediately sparked off protest by the youth of the village who took to the streets.

They alleged that Kayit's house was set ablaze.

The protesting youths criticised the withdrawal of military men from the area.

One of the protesters, Bala Samaila said, "The military had no business being here if they can not

**Suspected
Boko Haram
commander killed**

JOINT Task Force on Operation Restore Order, said on Thursday that it had shot dead a suspected high-profile terrorist, Mr. Ibn Ibrahim, after an operation in Maiduguri.

This was contained in a statement by the JTF spokesman, Lt.-Col. Sagir Musa, in Maiduguri.

"In a sustained follow-up operation, the combined troops of the JTF, the State Security Service, supported by armoured personnel carriers conducted a major offensive operation in Maiduguri.

"The operations took place at Ngarnam, Bulabulim and Bayern Quarters against insurgent terrorist," Musa said.

He said during the offensive, a major commander of the Boko Haram terrorists group in charge of the North West and North East, Ibrahim, was killed.

"Ibrahim was killed with some of his foot soldiers," he said.

He alleged that the slain commander had been confirmed to be responsible for the recent killing of Nigerian Civil War hero, Maj.-Gen. Mohammed Shuwa (retd.), in Maiduguri.

"Several weapons, ammunition and Improvised Explosive Device were recovered during the operation. "The operation is still ongoing to get other terrorists in hiding," he said.

protect us. They can go. We can protect ourselves."

Also, National President of Bajju Youth Association, Gad Ezekiel, said the attackers killed all the members of the family, except a little girl.

Another resident, Emmanuel Danboyi, alleged that they spotted a trailer parked near the building before the incident.

He said, "In the day time, we saw a trailer parked there but when we had gone to bed, we began to hear gun shots. I had to evacuate my family to a safe place. Later, we discovered that all the people in the house

had been burnt beyond recognition."

Another resident, who will not want his name in print, said despite the military checkpoint in the area, the gunmen shot sporadically into the air for 30 minutes.

He, therefore, wondered why the security men could not rescue the victims.

The council Chairman, Mr. Dominic Yahaya, confirmed the killings.

He said, "An attack took place at Madauchi, near Zonkwa early this (Thursday) morning. Six people were shot and killed. Only one body was brought out of the building."

When contacted, the Police Public Relations officer in the state, Aminu Lawan, told our correspondent on the telephone that the command was aware of the attack.

Lawan, said the command had commenced investigation into the incident but added that no arrest had been made.

He said, "Yes, we are aware of the incident at Madauchi and investigation is ongoing."

Meanwhile, Governor, Patrick Yakowa said he was saddened by the killing.

The governor, in a statement by his Chief Press Secretary, Reuben Buhari,

described it as "barbaric."

He noted that despite unwarranted and deliberate attempt to cause chaos, his administration would not be deterred in securing the state.

The statement read in part, "His Excellency, the Governor of Kaduna State is truly saddened by the gory incident in Madauchi, Zangon Kataf Local Government.

"More saddening is the fact that this incident came when more concerted efforts by this government, through the Peace and Reconciliation Committee, are being made to entrench lasting and sustainable peace in the state."



•A scene of a multiple accident at Otedola Estate on the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway... on Thursday. Photo: Goke Famadewa

Maevis insists on FAAN boss' trial for contempt

Ade Adesomoju

AN aviation services firm, Maevis Limited, on Thursday at a Federal High Court, Lagos insisted that the Managing Director, Federal Airport Authority of Nigeria, George Uriesi, be tried for alleged disobedience of court order.

Maevis had through its counsel, Prof. Yemi Osinbajo (SAN) initiated contempt proceedings against Uresi and FAAN, alleging that they

violated the court's order of December 2010.

Maevis Limited is said to have signed a contract with the FAAN for provision of the Airport Operations Management System platform in four international airports in Lagos, Abuja, Kano and Port Harcourt.

It claimed that the termination of the contract by FAAN as well as its eviction from the Murtala Mohammed Airport, Lagos and Nnamdi Azikwe Aiport,

Abuja amounted to a disobedience of the court's order.

The firm therefore urged Justice Ibrahim Buba to dismiss an application by FAAN and Uresi challenging the court's jurisdiction to entertain the contempt proceedings.

Maevis argued that the application filed as a notice of preliminary objection, "constituted an abuse of court process" since a similar application by the

applicants had been heard and dismissed by the former trial judge, Justice Binta Nyako.

The company insisted that all necessary requirements under Section 72 of the Sheriff and Civil Processes Act and the Judgment Enforcement Act were complied with in the filing of the suit.

However, Uresi and FAAN, by their preliminary objection, urged the court to dismiss the suit for lacking in competence.

Their counsel, Kola Awodein (SAN), argued that the suit was not competent, saying "the conditions precedent were not met before the contempt proceedings commenced."

Awodein faulted the existence of such order, as according to him, no record of proceedings presided over by the former judge reflected that the order was given.

He said contrary to Osinbajo's claim, their earlier objection was not decided on merit when the case was before Nyako.

UNIJOS students protest fee hike

Jude Owuamanam, Jos

ACADEMIC activities were disrupted at the University of Jos in Plateau State on Thursday as the students protested against the increase in their school fees.

The protest also resulted in the disruption of vehicular movements on the busy Jos-Bauchi roads.

Our correspondent learnt that a statement posted on the university's website showed that tuition rose from N12, 000 to N27, 500, while accommodation fee increased from N4, 500 to N12, 500.

As early as 8am, placard-carrying students took over the main gate of the Bauchi Road campus of the university, condemning the increase and demanding a reversal.

Some of the placards read, 'Daylight rape', 'our parents are government workers and have not been paid', 'many parents cannot afford the increase', among others.

Acting President of the Student Union Government, of the institution, Miss Nanlop Maya, who led the protest, said the increase amounted to "commercialisation of education and a

demonstration of 'the insensitivity of the school management to their plight.'

She said efforts to meet with management to discuss the matter were rebuffed.

Maya said "I led a delegation of the students union body to negotiate with the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academics) over the increment but we were denied audience. To my surprise, he said a mere student cannot interact with him."

Registrar of the university, Mr. Jilli Dandam, who addressed the students, promised to take their grievances to the management.