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## Five policemen, 20 gunmen die in Yobe attack

APRIL 26, 2013 BY KAMARUDEEN OGUNDELE WITH AGENCY REPORT

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Commissioner of Police in Yobe, Alhaji Sanusi Rufai, said five policemen and 20 gunmen had been confirmed dead with over N9m carted away from a commercial bank during the attack by Islamic Boko Haram terrorists in Gashua, Yobe on Thursday.

The commissioner, who made the disclosure while briefing newsmen in Damaturu, said two policemen also sustained injuries and were currently receiving treatment.

He explained that the gunmen had earlier seized the bank manager, forcing him to open the vault where the money was carted away together with a Peugeot 406 and Toyota Corolla cars.

Rufai said police and military men later engaged the gunmen in a gun battle, recovering the two cars and an Isuzu Hilux van, belonging to the terrorists.

The commissioner said two guns, two locally made pistols; two long range rifles; 19 hand grenades and assorted ammunition were also recovered from the gunmen.

He said one of the gunmen was captured and was now assisting the police with information on the attack.

"It is the same group using police and military uniforms that attacked Tarmuwa, Gulani and Giedam in recent times," Rufai said.

But the Joint Task Force on security said two policemen and five suspected terrorists died in an attack.

It could not be ascertained if the seven victims were part of the 25 that died in the same town.

The JTF said the policemen and terrorists lost their lives during an attack on security formations by suspected Islamic Boko Haram members at Gashua in the Bade Local Government Area of Yobe State.

The spokesman for the JTF, Lt. Eli Lazarus, in a statement said some of the attackers escaped with gunshot wounds and appealed to the public, particularly medical personnel, not to treat any one with gunshot wounds.

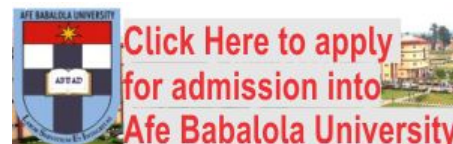
"Those that escaped with gunshot wounds also carted away two vehicles, police uniforms and other items from the police station," he said.

The statement added that the JTF was conducting "cordon and search" operation in Gashua to fish out any of the gunmen probably hiding in the village.

Meanwhile, Nigeria has enlisted the support of the United States to end the violence in the north.

Foreign Affairs Minister, Ambassador Olugbenga Ashiru, made the request at a meeting with the Secretary of State, John Kerry, in the US.

The minister said, "There are so many challenges we face in our country which the Secretary of State has already mentioned and we believe that with the support of the US, we will overcome the challenge in not too distant future and we hope in our meeting today we will be able to discuss all the areas to further improve in


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our bilateral relations with the US.”

Kerry, who expressed joy at receiving Ashiru, said the US had “a close association and working partnership with Nigeria”.

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**justice** • 3 months ago

These our leaders are fools, why do they always have to waste time and lives before doing the right thing. Why didn't they accept the US government plan to assist over two years ago - let the US create the AfriCom in Nigeria, because all of you politicians are useless. I rather be a slave under an Obama than to be a free man under fools like Mr Jonathan and its myopic/dead politicians.

are they blinded by the money they are eating?

i pray they and their families get consumed by this political games they play with the lives of innocent Nigerians.

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**Akeula Taiwo** • 3 months ago

Government should not only seek the assistance of US in military collaboration to subdue the BH but also seek US assistance in other areas such as investment in hi-tech security surveillance apparatus and power generation to make the apparatus work effectively. This will check and easily detect the activities of insurgents. Govt should also seek US assistance in areas of providing security information dissemination apparatus such as general security emergency lines through which rural dwellers can confidently get access to the security operatives if they sense any traces of insurgents. This should be the first step before apportioning blames on innocent citizens that they fail to alert govt, thereby conniving with BH. US has perfectly working 911 emergency line throughout its territory for the use of its citizens to alert police and medics in cases of emergency. Govt should seek help in area of corruption eradication which impedes the progress in many of these ways mentioned above and several other political and economic ways.

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**growthengine** • 3 months ago

Now they are ready for help from USA. After wasting lives for years. I pray the help will be useful and not wasted too.

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