

## 29 killed in fresh Boko Haram attacks

**T**wenty-nine persons are believed to have been killed in two separate attacks by suspected Boko Haram members in Borno State on Thursday night.

Those killed, according to sources, include 19 insurgents and 10 innocent citizens in the attacks.

One of the attacks took place in Beneisheikh town, along the Maiduguri-Damaturu highway. The gunmen were said to have barricaded the expressway and stopped vehicles in which they slaughtered 10 travellers.

Our correspondent learnt that other passengers disembarked and fled in different directions.

A source said many people sustained gunshot injuries as the insurgents shot in the direction of the fleeing commuters.

A military source told journalists that "the incident happened when over 30 gunmen, who were armed with sophisticated weapons emerged from their hideouts inside the Sambisa forest and blocked the highway.

He said even though 10 bodies of slaughtered commuters were seen on the highway after the insurgents had left, the death toll might have been higher as some of those who sustained gunshot injuries might have died.

"The gunshots may have killed many passengers as they shot at some vehicles when the drivers refused to stop and ran over the roadblock," the source said.

Another source explained that the gunmen opened fire on the vehicles before using knives to slaughter the 10 victims.

Our correspondent could not get the Director of Defence Information, Maj.-Gen. Chris Olukolade, to confirm the killing of the insurgents as calls to his mobile telephone line did not connect.

## Atiku calls for international