

# Six vigilantes, three cops killed in Adamawa, Sokoto

**Published** May 17, 2018



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Suspected Boko Haram insurgents killed six local vigilantes fighting alongside the military in a night attack in Madagali, Adamawa State.

Three policemen were also killed by bandits in Sokoto.

The slain vigilantes were said to be on patrol along the Kafin-Hausa area of Madagali, when they were ambushed by Boko Haram.

A local vigilante simply identified as Musa, who confirmed the incident to *The PUNCH*, said, “Six of our colleagues were killed by Boko Haram gunmen while on patrol. The gunmen opened fire on a vigilante group who encountered them at Kafin-Hausa area, but they were overpowered in the fierce gun battle which ensued.”

Also confirming the attack, a House of Representatives’ member representing Michika/Madagali Federal constituency, Mr. Adamu Kamale, said, “There was an attack at Kafin-Hausa area of Madagali, which is under my constituency, and unfortunately six vigilantes that were assisting soldiers in maintaining order were killed during the attack.

In a similar development, three policemen attached to a Syrian engineer working with a construction company along the Sokoto-Jega Road, were killed in an attempt to foil the abduction of the Syrian national.

Motorists plying the Sokoto-Yabo-Jega route, who witnessed the incident, confirmed this to one of our correspondents in Sokoto.

Another source said the remains of the affected policemen had since been removed and deposited in the mortuary at the Usmanu Danfodiyo University Teaching Hospital, Sokoto.

When contacted, the police spokesperson in Sokoto State, DSP Cordelia Nwawe, confirmed the incident.

However, Nwawe stated that the affected policemen were receiving treatment in an undisclosed hospital after they were shot during crossfire to rescue the kidnapped engineer.

Meanwhile, the Nigerian Air Force has bombed suspected locations of the Boko Haram insurgents in the Gargash area of Borno State, killing scores of terrorists in an operation ordered by the Chief of the Air Staff, Air Marshal Sadique Abubakar, who has relocated to the state.

Our correspondent learnt that the NAF on Monday began the operation, codenamed, *Thunder Strike*, which was to attack the Boko Haram locations which were inaccessible to troops of the Nigerian Army as the rains had damaged the routes.

It was gathered that the air task force sent out fighter jets which destroyed the structures of the Boko Haram, while some insurgents “fled to hide under trees at a nearby bush.”

The NAF Director of Public Relations and Information, Air Vice-Marshal Olatokunbo Adesanya, who confirmed the operation, said the air strikes were to complement the ground troops who were being hindered by the rainy season.