

and Justice Adviser, British High Commissioner, Abuja...on Monday. Photo: Sam Adeko

Gunmen, suicide bombers kill 11 in Zamfara, Borno

**Jesusegun Alagbe and
Kayode Idowu, with
agency report**

AN attack by gunmen and suicide bombings in Zamfara and Borno states respectively have left 11 people dead.

The PUNCH gathered that seven persons died when gunmen attacked Gidan-Labbo village, Gidan-Goga in the Maradun Local Government Area of

Zamfara State.

The Public Relations Officer of the Zamfara Police Command, Muhammad Shehu, told the *News Agency of Nigeria* that the yet-to-be-identified bandits on Friday attacked their victims while they were clearing their farmland.

"As soon as we received the report, our men were deployed in the area. They discovered seven bodies," he said, adding that the

operatives had restored peace to the area.

He asked the people of the state to continue to support security agents with information that could help them to take proactive measures against criminals.

The state Governor, Abdul'aziz Yari, had on Sunday raised the alarm that bandits sent threat letters to farmers in the state, asking them to keep away from their farms.

Meanwhile, four persons were killed while seven others were injured in two suicide bomb attacks on Mashamari village, in the Konduga Local Government Area of Borno State.

The state Commissioner of Police, Damian Chukwu, told journalists in Maiduguri on Monday that the bombers detonated their explosives inside a house and near a mosque in the town on Sunday evening.

Following the attacks, Chukwu said the Police Explosive Ordnance Device Corps had been deployed in Mashamari, a community near an Internally Displaced Persons camp.

"The bombers found their way into the community and blew themselves up, killing four people and injuring seven others," he said.

A source at the state's specialist hospital told *The PUNCH* that the injured victims were brought in at about 9am on Monday, noting that they were still receiving treatment.

Konduga has seen countless bloody attacks by terrorists since the Boko Haram insurgency began in the North-East in 2009.

On February 17, 2018, 22 people were killed in a bomb attack at a fish market in the town.

Dismissal of \$1.63m theft charges against Emirates Airlines

Displeased with the judgment, however, the Federal Government has proceeded on appeal, seeking to overturn the acquittal of the airline and its officials.

Among other things, the AGF is contending that Justice Idris erred in law for failing to attach evidential value to Exhibit A1 and A2, but rather held that "I find that exhibits A1 and A2 are unsigned."

The AGF said by so doing, Justice Idris failed to be guided by the Court of Appeal's decision in the case of *Global Soap and Detergent Limited v. NAFDAC* (2011) LPELR-CA/IL/13/2007, where the court held that a court could take judicial notice and look at documents including unsigned ones to

deliver justice."

The AGF is urging the appellate court to hold that Justice Idris miscarried justice by discharging the defendants.

Listed as defendants in the case are Emirates Airlines, Abayomi Abiola, Isiaka Adedeji, Awonubi Abayomi and George Ikpekhia.

Also joined as defendants are Pathfinder International Limited and the Nigeria Aviation Handling Company Plc.

The AGF alleged that the defendants conspired among themselves to swindle a businessman, Prince Ikem Orji, out of his \$1.63m under the false pretences that they would help him to keep the money and deliver same to him at Guangzhou, China.

The money was said to have been kept in one of the four bags, tagged, EK 428682, EK428683, E 650165 and EK 650161, which Orji kept with the defendants on the promise that they would help him to keep the bags intact for onward delivery to him in China.

The AGF claimed that the defendants committed the offence on December 19, 2007 at the Murtala Muhammed Airport, Ikeja, Lagos.

In one of the charges, the four airport officials were charged with money laundering for their "failure to report an international transfer of the sum of \$1.63m belonging to Prince Ikem Orji, a sum above \$10,000 required to be reported to the Central Bank of Nigeria by virtue of Section 2 (1) of the Money Laundering (Prohibition) Act."

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