

NEWS

Taraba bandits kill checkpoint policeman, injure others, steal rifle

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File copy: Map of Taraba

Justin Tyopuusu, Jalingo

GUNMEN in the early hours of Wednesday attacked a Mobile Police checkpoint in Chanchanji village in Takum Local Government Area of Taraba State, killing a policeman in the process.

Local sources said the gunmen who rode on motorcycles opened fire on the policemen manning the checkpoint, killing one of cops, while four passersby sustained injuries.

It was gathered that the gunmen, after killing the policeman, allegedly made away with his rifle.

This is even as an aide to Governor Darius Ishaku, Mr. Bala Baba, was kidnapped in his residence in the Sabon Gari area of Jalingo, the state capital, on Tuesday.

It was learnt that the hoodlums invaded Baba's house around 2am and operated for about 30 minutes unchallenged.

The state Police Command has since confirmed the incident.

On the killing of a policeman, Mr. Terna Ahua, a resident of Chanchanji, told our correspondent on the phone that the gunmen, who came from the Benue side of the Taraba/Benue border, opened fire at a check point mounted by the police, killing one of the policemen on duty.

“The gunmen rode on three motorcycles and passed at a high speed heading towards the bridge at about 6:50am.

“After a while, we heard gunshots, but because of the insecurity around here, we did not rush to the area. It was after about 30 minutes that we went out only to discover that a policeman was killed in the attack.

“Four other persons, including the son of the Gara of Chanchanji, were injured in the attack,” he said.

Ahua also said the Jukun youths, acting on a suspicion that the attackers were Tiv, launched a reprisal on Tiv people in the area, burning two motorcycles and injuring several other people who were coming to Peva market.

Speaking, Spokesman for the state Police Command, Reform Leha, confirmed the attack to our correspondent on the telephone.

Leha said, “Yes, one police officer on special duty to the area protecting the internally displaced persons (IDPs) was killed in the early morning attack

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