

Gunmen Burn Down Police Station, Kill 2 Cops

Gunmen believed to be members of Islamist group Boko Haram burned down a police station in volatile Maiduguri, killing two policemen and a civilian, the military said today.

A senior army officer with the military joint task force (JTF) deployed in the area, who asked not to be named, said gunmen stormed Mafa police station in Borno state in the night.

"Two policemen and one civilian were killed in the attack," he said, adding that troops had been drafted in.

The JTF Sunday raided a suspected Boko Haram base in London Ciki, Maiduguri, killing two Islamists, the officer also said.

"Two locally made pistols were recovered and five suspects were arrested as a result of the operation," he added.

Troops have recently stepped up raids on suspected Boko Haram hideouts, looking for explosives and arms.

Maiduguri, the home base of Boko Haram, has seen some of the worst violence blamed on the extremist sect, which has focused its attacks on the mainly Muslim north.

Police, security agents and government offices have been targeted in the violence. Churches have also be attacked as dozens of Christian worshippers have been killed in recent months.

Boko Haram's increasingly bloody insurgency has claimed more than 1,000 lives since mid-2009.

Nigeria's 160 million people are roughly divided between a mainly Muslim north and predominantly Christian south.



•L-R: Stanley Olmbanrouor, Debo Adeniran, Comrade Babatunde Ashafa and Ronke Ademokoya, at the album launch of Civil Society Club of Nigeria at the Airport Hotel. Photo: Habeeb Ogunbadejo.

NURTW Boss Condemns Mile 12 Attack

The Lagos State Council of the National Union of Road Transport Workers, NURTW, has dissociated itself from the mayhem that erupted at Mile 12 area of Lagos.

Lagos State Chairman of the NURTW, Alhaji Tajudeen Agbede in a statement made available to P.M.NEWS blamed the confusion in the area on hoodlums whom he accused of trying to reap where they did not sow.

He explained that some Ilaje boys who are mainly fishermen caused the problem when they

attacked the NURTW members performing their legitimate duties in the motor park at at Owode Elede of Mile 12 market.

The Lagos NURTW boss lamented that the Ilaje boys were fond of attacking motor parks in the area in order to extort money from commuter bus drivers.

Alhaji Agbede thanked the police for their timely intervention in the crisis in the area. "The police moved in quickly and restored peace when they learnt of the trouble. I commend the timely response of the state police com-

mand," he added.

He advised the police to get to the root cause of the problem in order to put a halt to the incessant attack on NURTW members in the area.

Also commenting on the disturbance in the area, the chairman of the motor park, Comrade Adebayo Ajayi, assured that normalcy has returned to the park.

A police source at the Mile 12 police station confirmed that some hoodlums were arrested during the mayhem, adding that they would soon be charged to court.

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