

Boko Haram: 32 more killed in Borno

■ Camerounian soldier among seven shot dead

From TIMOTHY OLANREWAJU,
Maiduguri

Violence continued in the volatile Borno State Sunday night as another 32 people have been killed in a fresh attack on a community located in the central part of the state. Boko Haram is believed to be responsible. Scores of people were injured.

The latest violence occurred on Sunday night at Mafa, headquarters of Mafa Local Government Area and about 50 kilometres from Maiduguri, the state capital. Residents said suspected Boko Haram members rode in two vehicles into the community and first opened fire on residents, entered houses and dragged their targets out of the buildings. "They later set ablaze houses using bombs while still pursuing people, shooting at anybody they see," a relation of one of the victims told *Daily Sun* yesterday.

A security source also said three policemen died in the attack. "It is regrettable that our colleagues died in action," the source stated. A resident who fled to Maiduguri yesterday said the attackers came at about 8pm and began to shoot sporadically. "They have set fire on our town. They spared nothing as almost all our houses, shops and buildings were razed down completely; we have been devastated beyond what one can describe," the source stated, adding that 32 people were buried yesterday.

Residents said the insurgents planted explosives in some strategic locations in the town. "They planted a bomb near the DPO's (Divisional Police Officer) residence and that was the one that detonated early this morning (Monday) and killed two policemen. Their vehicle ran on it and the bomb went off,"

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Sen Ahmed Zannah, who represents Borno Central, spoke on BBC Hausa service monitored in Maiduguri yesterday, confirming the attack even as he expressed concern over the continuous killing of civilians in the area. He said he was informed that the insurgents had earlier threatened to visit Mafa with violence, wondering why the security agencies could not move in to halt the attack.

"I received a report from my constituency in Mafa that 29 people died during the attack among them was a woman. I learnt a bomb exploded this morning and two policemen were also killed while on their way to evacuate injured victims. I really can't say why this attack has continued to happen. From what I gathered from the people in the area, the attack was forewarned earlier

and that was why many women and children fled the town for about a week now," the senator said.

In neighbouring Cameroun Republic, the Islamist sect also killed a soldier and six others in the northern part of the country.

"Boko Haram killed a Camerounian soldier. Our soldiers killed six of their guys" and "captured" two others near the Nigerian border, the source told AFP yesterday, requesting anonymity.

A local Camerounian Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) confirmed the assault and said there were "victims" without specifying the number. "On Sunday, Boko Haram Islamists entered Cameroun... there was a clash between them and the soldiers," said Mey Aly, from rights group Os-Civil Droits de l'Homme.

"Around 30 heavily armed Boko Haram soldiers crept discretely into Cameroun. A villager saw them and raised the alarm," she added. Soldiers blocked their path and a firefight broke out. Cameroun's rapid reaction force sped to the area.

"The region's populations have been terrorised by incursions from Islamists like Sunday's. We call on stronger efforts from the authorities to reassure the population," she added.

Production error

Due to production error on the Niger Delta Chronicle pull-out, page 31 was repeated on page 35 which is why the interview granted by Great Ogboru was incomplete. The end appears on page 36 without any beginning. The mix-up is regretted. -Editor.