

on Borno and the neighbouring states of Yobe and Adamawa for over a year.

Also on Friday suspected Boko Haram insurgents reportedly ambushed travelers along Maiduguri-Damaturu highway, killing nine people and took away a vehicle loaded with beans.

Sources said some gunmen suddenly appeared from the bush and attacked motorists at a deserted location between Mamok and Benisheik and killed nine people. The incident according to sources occurred at about 6pm on Friday. A commercial driver told journalists that the insurgents almost killed him save for divine intervention, as he refused to stop when they fired at his vehicle.

"I failed to notice that people in a nearby village were stopping me. The attackers shot at my vehicle and killed three people. The rest of us were lucky to have escaped," he said.

Another source said the insurgents snatched a lorry loaded with about 150 bags of beans and drove it into the bush without a trace.