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Boko Haram on rampage, kills LG chief's son

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BY TIMOTHY OLANREWAJU, MAIDUGURI AND FRED ITUA, ABUJA ON JULY 1, 2014 ·

COVER

• Torches police station, houses

... FCT moves to stop bombings

Boko Haram gunmen yesterday attacked a police station and torched many houses in Borno State when they invaded Shani, headquarters of Shani Local Government at about 2.45pm. They set ablaze the divisional police station and some houses, shops and vehicles with Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs). This is even as the Federal Government yesterday directed all hotels in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) to forward lists of their customers to the Directorate of State Security (DSS). It is in a bid

house as the insurgents reportedly trained him. However, his son was not that lucky as he was shot dead, residents said. "They also burnt some vehicles including police patrol vehicles while attempting to drive them away," a source claimed.

Residents said they learnt about the attack early yesterday as some "strangers" ordered women farmers to vacate their farms as they were out for a "deadly mission somewhere else."

Shani is located about 245 kilometres from Maiduguri, the state capital. The area also shares boundary with neighbouring Adabawa State. Yesterday's attack was the second in the area since the insurgents intensified offensive in the southern part of the state.

Meanwhile, the FCT Administration has directed all hotels to forward lists of their guests to the FCT Directorate of DSS and the FCT police command daily.

According to the FCT Minister, Senator Bala Mohammed, the hotels should install individual security

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cameras within their premises and ensure thorough checks of all vehicles entering their buildings.

Mohammed has also directed all residents and their associations to embark on "operation know your neighbour" campaign.

The minister explained that the measure will ensure that all criminals are detected easily within the territory. The security department of FCT Administration is to liaise with the various security agencies on the modalities for implementing the directive.

Senator Mohammed has also directed all traditional rulers to start holding periodic meetings with various communities within their domains to take stock of strange faces in their midst, as well as report all new comers within 48 hours of the Division Police Officers and DSS offices. This is in furtherance of "operation know your neighbour" campaign.

He urged all residents to be vigilant and cautious of strange objects or movements of persons, vehicles around them, as well as stationary vehicles. They should report same to the nearest security agencies. He also directed that all trailers/lorry operators bringing goods to the city shall no longer be allowed to offload their contents at night. This shall henceforth, be done in the day under supervision in designated places.

The directive requires owners of uncompleted and abandoned buildings and structures without security guards to provide same. Failure to do so, the FCT Administration would apply appropriate sanctions. Similarly, owners of undeveloped plots of land not used for any economic or gainful purpose but taken over by criminals, would now face appropriate sanctions.

The minister reminded residents that the ban on smoking of Indian hemp and other narcotics is still in force in the territory, adding that the administration had resolved to clamp down on violators.

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