

# Insurgents kill 27 at Maiduguri livestock market

• In new video without Shekau, terrorists dismiss military's claims of success

FROM TIMOTHY OLANREWaju, MAIDUGURI

**B**oko Haram terrorists are on the rampage again in Borno State yesterday. They bombed a livestock market in Maiduguri, the state capital, killing 27 people.

Witnesses said a bomb carefully concealed under a table at Gamboru livestock market, east of Maiduguri, exploded, killing traders, residents and injuring more than 30 people.

"So far, 11 bodies have been brought to our hospital with 23 people who sustained various injuries," a senior medical officer at the Borno State Specialists Hospital, who is not authorised to speak to journalists told *Daily Sun*. He said victims were brought by emergency ambulance shortly after explosion.

Charred bodies of victims were also evacuated from the scene, while it was difficult to identify such bodies.

Sources at the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital (UMTH) said 10 "seriously injured" persons were brought to the Accident and Emergency Unit (A & E) but "two of the victims later died."

Another source also said 14 bodies were brought to the teaching hospital though *Daily Sun* could not verify this as at Press time, but the police said a suspected suicide bomber entered Kasau Sanu (livestock market) at about 11.30hrs yesterday.

Another suicide bomber who was shouting 'Sai Buhari and dancing in the market, detonated Improvised Explosive Device (IED) strapped on his body and when people had gathered around him. Four persons, died including the suicide bomber. "Eight sustained injuries and men were mobilised to the scene while bodies/injured persons were evacuated to the hospital. Investigation is in progress," says Commissioner of Police, CP Aderemi Opadokun, through an SMS.

Meanwhile, four days after President Muhammadu Buhari described Boko Haram as "mindless" and "godless" group and vowed to end its activities, the group yesterday released a new video online dismissing claims by the military that it has been defeated by the sub-regional force comprising troops from Nigeria, Chad, Niger and Cameroon. The video did not show the group's leader, Abubakar Shekau.

Since Buhari was sworn in on May 29, Boko Haram has launched a series of attacks in Maiduguri, deploying suicide bombers and firing rocket-propelled grenades.

In the new video, the unidentified speaker, with face masked with a headscarf, called Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad and Niger, which have been battling the militant group, "the lying coalition partners."

Boasting about Boko Haram activities, in the 10-minute video posted on YouTube, the speaker declared: "Most of our territory is still under our control."

"The armies claim through the media that they captured our towns and that they assaulted Sambisa (forest) and defeated us," the speaker declared: "I swear by Allah that I am talking right now from Sambisa... Here in Sambisa you can travel more than four to five hours under the black flag of Islam by car or by motorbike."

Dismissing claims of the insurgents' defeat as "false propaganda," he said: "We are uncountable in Sambisa. We are thousands of *Mujahedeen* here."

Incidentally, the speaker showed gross ignorance of latest leadership change in Nigeria when he said: "President of Nigeria Jonathan," a reference to former President Goodluck Jonathan who handed over to Buhari last Friday, an indication that the video may have been shot before May 29 hand-over.

The video bears the logo, "Islamic State in West Africa" and follows the group's pledge of allegiance in an audio message in March to the Islamic State group that has overrun large parts of Syria and Iraq.

This is the first video released by Boko Haram since February, when Shekau was shown in high definition footage and vowed to disrupt Nigeria's general elections. The video, therefore, raises questions on the whereabouts of Shekau, who had featured prominently in most of the group's videos over the last three years possible.

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