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## Residents urge govt to end Boko Haram

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BY OUR REPORTER ON JULY 5, 2015

NATIONAL

...as insurgent kills 7 in fresh attack near Maiduguri

FROM TIMOTHY OLANREWAJU, MAIDUGURI

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people dead, a vigilante leader and a local chief said.

Following the incident, angry residents have asked the Federal Government to be decisive in tackling the insurgency, urging the military to take the battle to Boko Haram hideout rather than waiting for them to attack and then repel the attackers.

"Boko Haram insurgents are around Kochebe village in Mafa Local Government. The military should go and crush them. We don't need to wait for them to plan and execute another attack. The killing is too much and the pains unbearable for us," a youth vigilante member, Hussein Mohammed, lamented while speaking with Sunday Sun at Zabarmari town in Jere Local Government.

Panic and anxiety gripped most residents of Maiduguri on Friday night as heavy shootings were heard in the southeastern part of the city, prompting many, especially Muslims to retire home as soon as they rounded off the late night Ramadan prayers. Sources said Boko Haram insurgents were carrying out attacks at three communities near the capital, Maiduguri.

Leader of vigilante group at Zabarmari, Auwali Zimaria, said the insurgents stormed the town at about 5pm on Friday in Hilux vehicles and armoured tanks. "They were many, using bombs (Improvised Explosive Devices-IEDs) and firing grenade. The military tried to repel the attack but Boko Haram succeeded in burning down shops at the main market and some houses. Seven people were killed," he told Sunday Sun.

According to him, the insurgents came to the town after attacking Dusman, a nearby community. A

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resident, Yusuf Mohammed, claimed that two soldiers lost their lives in the confrontation with the insurgents while praising the soldiers for fighting gallantly.

The community leader, Bulama Dan Hassan, whose house was also torched by the insurgents, disclosed that seven people were killed in the incident. "Seven people were killed. The soldiers tried but the insurgents entered the town and started burning houses and shops," he stated.

Governor Kashim Shettima who visited the scene of the attack expressed sympathy for the victims. "If not for the military troops, we would have recorded more than the seven people killed here. Seven people killed is still far lower than what Boko Haram did in Kukawa and Monguno village, though we don't wish any life is lost," Shettima said while answering questions from journalists at Z Bramari on his reaction to the attack.

At the Old Maiduguri Primary School where residents of the affected communities fled to, Shettima urged them not to be dismayed, saying the military had mobilised troops to the area to restore sanity. He said he had directed government agency concerned with the welfare of displaced persons to provide meals for them immediately. He assured them that they would soon be relocated back to their communities to continue their normal life.

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