

made the disclosure in a state-
Haram Terrorists (BHIs) in air
which confirmed the presence
of the terrorists in Borno State.

Suspected cultists attack police patrol team, kill sergeant

2...As kidnapped priests regain freedom

From Paul Osuyi, Asaba

HOODLUMS suspected to be cultists attacked a police patrol team around the popular Konwea Plaza in Asaba, Delta State, in the wee hours of Saturday, killing a sergeant. The hoodlums numbering over 10 also injured two officers before making away with two rifles and one pistol belonging to the officers.

The injured officers were receiving treatment at an undis-

closed hospital, according to the state Commissioner of Police, Mr. Mohammad Mustafa, who confirmed the attack on phone. He said the matter was under investigation with a view to trapping down the fleeing attackers.

Mustafa also confirmed the release of four Catholic priests who were kidnapped last Tuesday on their way to Uhielle in Ekpoma, Edo State, for an alumni meeting. He stated that operatives from Delta and Edo Police

Commands rescued the victims, adding that some suspects had been arrested in connection with the crime. He also revealed that operatives were closing in on the kidnappers' hideout somewhere in Edo State before the priests were freed. The rescued priests were Rev. Frs. Victor Adigboluja of the Ijebu Ode Diocese; Anthony Otegbola of Abeokuta Diocese; Joseph Ediae of Benin Archdiocese; and Emmanuel Obadjere of Warri Diocese. They

were said to be receiving treatment at an undisclosed hospital in Benin City at the time of filing this report. There was, however, an unconfirmed report that N10 million ransom was allegedly paid to secure their release. Sources said their abductors, who had earlier demanded for N20 million before beating it down to N10 million, had warned against the involvement of security agencies in the deal or else the victims would be killed.