

# Residents flee as Boko Haram invades Niger communities

• Kills husband, wife, scores of gunmen neutralised

From **John Adams,**  
Minna

**THERE** was an atmosphere of uncertainty and anxiety in Damba village, Kurebe District in Shiroro Local Government Area of Niger State as eight canter loaded with suspected Boko Haram terrorists arrived the village and ordered the villagers to relocate.

The arrival of the terrorist group, on Sunday, according to a reliable source close to the community, has created panic and fear among the villagers who have begun to relocate to neighbouring villages even before the terrorists settled down.

Although Damba village is under Chukun local government area of Kaduna state, it borders Kaore village in Niger state with all the about 600 inhabitants transacting their businesses and daily activities in the state, including farming.

Only an extension of river Shiroro separating Damba community with Kaore in Niger state, even though people of the villages around Damba have lost their peace over a year ago when the terrorists officially established their camp there.

The Chairman of Shiroro local government, Mallam Suleiman Chukuba, who confirmed the latest influx of the terrorists to Damba, told the Daily Sun in Minna, on Monday, that the eight canters load of the terrorists arrived in the early hours of Sunday.

"Immediately they arrived, my people called me to inform me about it. As I speak to you now, the entire villages within the area are now almost deserted. The people are beginning to relocate."

The chairman said villages like Katarma, Rijiya Uku and Laidna have been deserted as the people have left their homes and have all relocated

to neighbouring villages.

The terrorists have asked the villagers to vacate their houses for them to enable them settle down, even as their mission to the area is yet unknown.

In another development, the chairman also confirmed the killing of a husband and wife at Napala village in Erena District, on Monday, by gunmen.

The husband and wife, according to the chairman, were earlier abducted from their farm by the gunmen, but decided to kill them midway into the journey after the combined team of soldiers and local vigilantes gave them a hot chase on receiving the distress call.

Some of the gunmen were, however, neutralised during the ensued fierce gun battle with the soldiers and the local vigilantes, while a soldier was said to have been injured.

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