

① Ahmed Miribga,
MAIDUGURI

14 farmers killed, 4 abducted, several missing for refusing to pay N.6m tax to B/Haram in Borno

② **N**o fewer than 14 persons have been killed, four abducted and several others missing when Boko Haram terrorists attacked farmers in Zabarmari, Koshebe and Bana areas of Jere, Mafa and Bana local government councils of Borno State on Sunday.

While 13 rice farmers were killed, several others are missing in Zabarmari and Koshebe communities of Jere and Mafa local government areas, even as a businessman was killed and four others abducted in a farm in Bana town of Bana Local Government Area of the state. It would be recalled that in 2020, 47 rice farmers were killed in the

same Zabarmari community in their farmlands while harvesting their farm produce.

A farmer from Zabarmari, Yusuf Mohammed, said, "the Boko Haram insurgents who have been asking us to pay tax, abducted the farmers in various places in their farmlands and demanded N600,000 ransom for them or they will be slaughtered, after 3 days.

"The insurgents who tied their hands before slaughtering them separately in their different farms on Sunday evening, allowed one

of the abductees to go home and report to their families."

He said, "the insurgents have been asking us to pay tax and if you refuse, they would abduct you or even kill you. We are calling on the Federal Government and the military in particular to do something before the insurgents kill us all. Now we are afraid to go to our farms and harvest our produce."

Another resident, Malam Hassan said, "this morning we buried 13 of our people and as I am speaking to you, several others are still

missing, while some are said to be abducted."

"Six of those killed were from the same family, while five others were from Koshebe and 2 from Kalori village," Hassan added.

② Also in Bana town of Bana Local Government Area, a Maiduguri based businessman was on Sunday killed in his farm while four labourers working in his farm were abducted. A family source told our correspondent that the deceased left Maiduguri on Sunday morning to harvest his beans, only to receive

the sad news that he was killed by Boko Haram insurgents while trying to resist abduction and 4 of his labourers were abducted.

At the time of filing in this report, the Borno State Commissioner of Police, CP Lawan Yusufu was at the scene of the Incident in Zabarmari to ensure normalcy.

Also, the state Police Public Relation Officer (PPRO), ASP Nahum Daso confirmed the Bama incident, but said they are yet to receive official briefing from the Bama Division.