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Boko Haram Kills Nurse, Prison Guard in Borno

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Police Headquarters

By Michael Olugbode

Suspected members of the outlawed Boko Haram sect in the early hours of Sunday laid siege on the hilly town of Gwoza, in Borno State, killing a nurse and a prison guard.

It was gathered from residents of the town that the attack occurred at about 4.45a.m. yesterday, while the names of the two persons killed were given as Ahmadu Alabeji, a nurse and Abba Sastawa, a prison guard. They were both killed at their Gadamayo ward residences near the General Hospital.

The gunmen, according to an eyewitness and a security guard at the hospital; had sneaked into the area in a Golf Volkswagen vehicle and two commercial motorcycles, before shooting the nurse dead and slitting the throat of the prison guard.

The sect's members were also said to have shot sporadically into the air to make way for their escape from the area.

The witness, who said the hoodlums did not stop the shout of Allahu Akbar (God is Great) to show their victory at killing the two persons, fled towards Kurana Bassa village that leads to Gwoza Hills, on which some of the Boko Haram insurgents are believed to be hiding since the declaration of state of emergency in Borno State by President Goodluck Jonathan.

A commercial driver, Isa Haruna, who fled to Maiduguri yesterday, told journalists at the Bama Motor Park, that: "We could not sleep throughout the night of Saturday, as the gunmen continue to shoot sporadically for over four hours, after killing a nurse and prison warden in Gadamayo ward. Some of our children are crying that they are to be shot also. This forced me to relocated and flee this morning to Maiduguri with nine of my family members, including six children."

He said because of the incessant attacks and killings in Gwoza town and villages of Pulka, Kwatara, Barawa and of recent Kirawa, a border town with Cameroun, where about 20 people were killed on a market day of last Saturday, residents of Gwoza were fleeing to neighbouring towns of Madagali and Michika in Adamawa State.

"We cannot return to our residences in Gwoza council area, until the security of lives life and property are guaranteed by soldiers, because even the policemen in our area are not spared by the insurgents, whenever they attack our communities and wards in Gwoza.

"These gunmen have attacked five communities and villages in this council area, with the killing of our ward and district heads, parents, teachers and policemen, despite four months of state of emergency in Borno state," Haruna said, while lamenting on insurgents' incessant attacks and killings in Gwoza.

It was, however, difficult to get official confirmation of the killing yesterday, but a senior police officer revealed to journalists that two residents were shot dead by armed hoodlums in Gwoza town, while three other people sustained injuries, in an attempt to flee their attacked residences.

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