

Gunmen kill six policemen, three others

BY ABDULSALAM MUHAMMAD, SAMINU IBRAHIM & NDAHI MARAMA

KANO — SIX policemen were killed by gunmen weekend in separate incidents in Zamfara and Borno states while three other civilians were killed in Tukuntawa area of Kano Municipality. Four policemen who were members of the Joint Task Force, JTF in Zamfara State were reportedly killed yesterday by gunmen in Dansadau district in Maru Local Government Area of the state while two policemen were killed in Mafa town, headquarters of Mafa Local Government Council of Borno State.

Vanguard gathered that the four policemen killed in Zamfara comprised of inspectors and corporals. They were reportedly killed in a gun battle which lasted about two hours.

Two of the suspected gunmen were also reportedly killed during the exchange of fire.

A source told Vanguard that five other policemen were still missing and

frantic efforts were being made to locate them.

Fears that the policemen may have been captured by the gunmen became rife following reports that calls made to cell phones belonging to one of the policemen was reportedly answered by one of the gunmen and was later switched off.

The JTF patrol team was set up to track down notorious armed robbers along Dansadau axis of the state, who terrorise traders on their way to rural markets. The police lost four of its men recently to another suspected armed robbers who provided escort for businessmen going to Kano to transact business.

The state Police spokesperson, Sanusi Amiru, an Assistant Superintendent of Police, ASP declined details, saying he was in a crucial meeting and could not comment.

Two killed in Borno

In Borno State, the two policemen were killed when 20 men armed with sophisticated weapons stormed Mafa

town Saturday night, firing several shots in the air, before they laid siege to the police station.

The gunmen were said to have driven into the area in three Volkswagen cars in the operation which lasted for an hour. The attackers were also said to have carried out the assault without any resistance as they overpowered all the policemen on duty and after killing two officers, other policemen took to their heels.

Spokesman of the state police command, Mr. Samuel Tizhe, while confirming the incident to newsmen yesterday said "yes it is true that at about 9.00pm on Saturday some unknown gunmen attacked the Mafa police station and killed two of our men".

According to Mr Tizhe, the gunmen also attempted to take away arms and ammunition without success as they were chased away by the officers on duty who had engaged the attackers in a gun duel.

The spokesman explained that during the confrontation, the security operatives chased away the hoodlums and escaped with gunshot injuries.

He, however, explained that police had later trailed the suspects to a nearby village and that 13 of them were apprehended.

In Kano, gunmen stormed a relaxation spot in Tukuntawa area of Kano and killed three people.

A witness told Vanguard that the gunmen had arrived on a motorbike and opened fire on people playing cards at the spot, adding that "the spot is a hub for meetings among friends on weekends."

The eyewitness told Vanguard that the sporadic shooting that lasted five minutes left several people wounded while residents were forced to quickly lock up their shops and houses.

Members of the JTF however arrived later to bring sanity to the area as they cordoned off the entire Tukuntawa neighbourhood.

JTF spokesperson in Kano, Lt Ikediche Iweha while confirming the incident, failed to give

the casualty figure. He said: "Our men are still on ground and you guys have to wait till the operation is over to enable us say what happened".

On his part, the police image maker, ASP Magaji Musa Majia also said "we don't have details at the moment because counter terrorism personnel are on ground."

Terrorism: IG tinted glasses

BY KINGSLEY OMONOBI

ABUJA — FOLLOWING intelligence reports that terrorist groups and gunmen, who have been killing innocent people and destroying property across the country use tinted glasses, Police spy number plates and sirens to deceive both security personnel and unsuspecting members of the public, Inspector General of Police, MD Abubakar has ordered a ban on indiscriminate use of these security items.

In a statement signed by Deputy Force Public Relations Officer, CSP Frank Mba, the IGP said the ban on the indiscriminate use of siren, revolving lights, tinted glasses and Police Supernumerary (SPY) number plates by unauthorized person or persons on public highways across the country takes immediate effect.

Criminals hide under official privileges

According to the statement, "this order has become imperative in view of recent security reports that indicate that suspected criminals now hide under the cover of official privileges and courtesies associated with the use of sirens, revolving lights and Supernumerary (SPY Police) plate numbers to commit crimes and beat Police and other security checks, thereby evading arrest and prosecution."

"In view of the negative security consequences

LIFEWORDS

BY PASTOR ITUAH

DO you see people skilled in their work? They will work for kings and not for ordinary people. Proverb 22:29 (NCV). When you are diligent in your ways, you undoubtedly enjoy the following:

- Blessings from God
- A great name
- A blessing to others

Pursue after knowledge, develop your skill, seal it with hardwork, crown it with prayer and let favour go ahead of you.

TAKE HEART

BY ELLA RANDLE

"The more one does and sees and feels, the more one is able to do, and the more genuine may be one's appreciation of fundamental things like home, and love, and understanding companionship." -Amelia Earhart-

CRAIG locks sums it up beautifully, that success means different things to every one of us. Some people believe it is measured in financial terms - having wealth. Others believe it is helping others rather than helping themselves. A bit of both perhaps! Success is such a personal thing. To many people it is the very root of their being - the reason for existing is to achieve something worthwhile in our lives. To the vast majority of the population it doesn't matter much whether they want to be successful or not; and that is alright too, as long as that is what you really want and you are happy with life. However, most people want and are motivated to a great extent by public recognition and a relentless pursuit of achievement. How many of these people are really happy? How many people are really doing what they want to with their lives? The beauty of life is doing what you really love to do and still make a difference.