

Eight suspected Boko Haram fighters killed in Gombe, Bauchi

EIGHT suspected Boko Haram fighters were killed yesterday during fighting in Gombe and Bauchi states, police, residents and local hunters said. (1)

Gunmen believed to be Islamist militants have been roaming Bauchi and neighbouring Gombe since the weekend, when there was a series of attacks on polling stations during the general elections.

(1) On Monday, Babakarami Sunusi, who lives in Gombe Abba, about 10 kilometres (6.25 miles) from Dukku, in Gombe state said four gunmen were killed.

According to him, gunmen in several vehicles arrived in the village around 4:30 am and were intercepted by soldiers who engaged them in a gunfight.

"The soldiers killed four of the gunmen and captured one, and the rest of the gunmen fled.", he said. (2)

Idi Male, a local hunter in the area gave a similar account, saying: "They (the gunmen) went into the hills outside the village but they were pursued by local hunters. The hunters are yet to return."

Bauchi state police spokesman Haruna Mohammed said police and local vigilantes "got wind of the approaching hoodlums and engaged them in a fierce gun battle" at about 7:30 am in Tafawa Balewa.

Four gunmen were killed and four of their 18 four-wheel drive pick-up trucks mounted with heavy machine guns were seized, with empty shells and ammunition. (2)

"Meanwhile, the same hoodlums went back to Jitar village in Bauchi Local Government Area and killed three vigilante members," Mohammed added.

"The entire surrounding has been cordoned off by combined security forces and (an) intensive patrol is ongoing to flush out fleeing miscreants", he said.