

Boko Haram kills 9 in bar, razes technical school in Yobe

●As troops arrest most wanted Boko Haram/ISWAP intelligence spy ●Women rescued from Boko Haram's captivity by military recount ordeal

By Kingsley Omonobi & Ndahi Marama

BOKO Haram insurgents, on Wednesday night, killed at least nine persons in an attack on Gaidam Local Government Area of Yobe State.

The attack came after the insurgents also attacked Komari village in Ngala Local Government Area of Borno State on gun trucks and motorcycles.

The insurgents were said to have attacked local pubs in the area at about 9:00pm, shooting sporadically and killing the victims who were said to be vendors.

The source said: "While the troops of Operation Hadin Kai came through Garin Banza to repel the insurgents' invasion, the Boko Haram members hid their motorcycles, then razed a government technical school to divert the attention of the troops."

"They first ordered the victims to lay down, then slaughtered some of them while they tied others with their hands behind their backs and shot them on the heads. The heads of others were cut off and placed on their chest."

Some group of insurgents were also said to have attacked a Chibok community of Yimimugza, killing two persons and abducting three women.

Sources revealed that the insurgents came on foot from different directions, setting ablaze a technical college in Gaidam, which is the home town of the immediate past governor, now Senator Ibrahim Geidam, located north of Yobe State.

Confirming the incident, Chairman of Geidam LGA, Ali Kolo, told our correspondent that the armed insurgents invaded some parts of the council and destroyed property worth millions of naira.

"Based on the information at my disposal, Boko Haram invaded Gaidam and razed down some structures, including the technical college while I am in Saudi Arabia for the lesser hajj. I also gathered that twin brothers were among those killed."

Troops arrest most

wanted Boko Haram/ISWAP intelligence spy

In a similar development, troops of 21 Special Forces Brigade, Nigerian Army, located in Bama have arrested Modu Babagana, the most wanted high ranking intelligence spy of Boko Haram/ISWAP of the West African Province, ISWAP, who escaped from military detention in Bama, Borno State.

An intelligence officer disclosed that the notorious Boko Haram/ISWAP member was arrested in January 2020 for carrying out espionage activities on troops in the general area of Bama and Banki.

The sources said a few days after Babagana was taken to prison, he used charms to facilitate his jailbreak and had been evading further arrest.

Upon realising that he escaped by troops manning the prison, he was declared wanted, with his pictures pasted in all nooks and crannies of the city.

Luck ran out on him when he was re-arrested with the help of men of the Civilian Joint Task Force in Bama main market while on a task to buy logistics for the terrorists with huge amount of money.

Aisha Buhari invites Tinubu, Osinbajo, Atiku, Obi, Saraki, Wike, others to Iftar dinner

By Johnbosco Agbakwuru

ABUJA—NIGERIA'S First Lady, Dr. Aisha Buhari, has invited all presidential aspirants from various political parties for Iftar dinner at the State House Conference Centre, Abuja, tomorrow.

The invitees were instructed not to come along with their mobile devices, except their invitation cards, which would serve as their entry pass.

Those that have indicated interest to contest the 2023 Presidential election are Vice President Yemi Osinbajo; former Vice President Atiku Abubakar; All Progressives Congress, APC, national leader, Asiwaju Bola Tinubu; former Governor of Anambra State,

A counter-insurgency expert with knowledge of Lake Chad, Zagazola Makama, who confirmed the arrest, said: "During preliminary investigation, the spy suspect confessed to have monitored and disclosed troops' location and movements to the terrorists."

Women rescued from Boko Haram's captivity by military recount ordeal

Meanwhile, the six women rescued in the ongoing military operations in North-East have commended the military for the renewed onslaught in Sambisa and fringes of Lake Chad that led to their rescue.

The women, who spoke on arrival at the headquarters of Joint Task Force North-East of Operation Hadin Kai in Maiduguri on Wednesday, said the operations gave them the opportunity to escape.

Ms Suzan Lazarus, abducted in April 2021 in Hong Local Government Area of Adamawa when the insurgents invaded their village of Kupre, said about 50 people were abducted that day.

The 28-year-old applicant said her abductors took them to an area known as Timbuktu

Triangle before taking them to the shores of Lake Chad.

"I give glory to God and say thank you to the military for our rescue but I am still worried about the faith of others," Lazarus said.

Also speaking, Miss Jummai Inuwa, who was abducted on Maiduguri-Damaturu road on October 10, 2020 said she was taken to the shores of Lake Chad where she was subjected to work as a slave.

"Some of us tried to escape but the place is like an island surrounded by water. It was difficult to escape because it was very muddy."

"We seized the opportunity to escape when the military bombed the area," Inuwa said.

Another woman, Ms Marta Malu, 25, said she was kidnapped on the Damboa - Askira road in December 2021 alongside six government construction workers and a policeman.

"We were eight. They took us to Sambisa and after one week they killed the policeman," Malu said.

Speaking on the development, the Theatre Commander of the Joint Task Force North-East of Operation Hadin Kai, Maj.- Gen. Christopher Musa, said the renewed onslaught under the ongoing "Operation Lake Chad Sanity" being conducted by Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) and "Operation Desert Sanity" being conducted by the Theatre Commander has been yielding results.

Mr Peter Obi and former Presidents of Senate, Anyim Pius Anyim and Bukola Saraki.

Others are Governor Nyesom Wike of Rivers State; his Ebonyi state counterpart, Dave Umahi; that of Sokoto and Bauchi states, Aminu Tambuwal and Bala Mohammed respectively; former governor of Imo State, Rochas Okorocha; Minister of Labour and Employment, Senator Chris Ngige, and his Transportation counterpart, Rotimi Amaechi, among others.

Invitees to appear without phones

However, the directive of not coming to the venue with phones will not apply to the Vice President Yemi Osinbajo and other governors and ministers who are expected to be at the

meeting, it was reliably learned.

Confirming the invitation, Special Assistant to the President on Media and Publicity, Office of the Wife of the President, Aliyu Abdullahi, said: "There is nothing there. This is a standard operational protocol in the Villa when you are having either of the three occupants of the Presidency. If they are coming for an event, this is supposed to be enforced by DSS."

"Whenever the president, vice president and First Lady are having an event, guests are expected to drop their phones, because outsiders will come. That's the security and standard protocol."

"That does not apply to the Vice President. How can you expect that to apply to the Vice President or even to ministers?"