

'How Yobe Pastor, 5 others were killed by Boko Haram'

By Ndahi Marama

Executive Secretary of Yobe State Emergency Management Agency (YOSEMA), Dr Mohammed Goje, and the branch Chairman of Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Bishop Yohanna Audu, have confirmed the killing of a Pastor of Church of Christ In Nations (COCIN) and five other persons when suspected members of Boko Haram invaded Kwari Area, Asheikri Ward of Gaidam local government area at the weekend.

Sunday Vanguard learnt that the victims including five males and a female were instantly killed, in addition to seven houses and a Church of Christ In Nations (COCIN) burnt to ashes, as well as one vigilante officer who was also killed by Unexplosive Ordinances (UXO).

Also an XCO exploded and killed one personnel of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) and injured 3 other military persons.

Gaidam is about 180km drive from Damaturu the Yobe State capital which had witnessed series of attacks in the past.

Recall that the fresh attacks on Gaidam came barely few days after suspected terrorists invaded Chibok communities of Tsiha and Gatamarwa,

killing 11 people and abducting a lady while looting foodstuff and livestock.

Speaking to our correspondent on Saturday, the YOSEMA boss, Goje said, "Yobe SEMA recieved a distress call from Gaidam LGA emergency responders and concerned community members of an attack by suspected NSAGs on the 4th of January 2024 at exactly 12:30am at Kwari Area, Asheikri Ward in Geidam Local Government.

"SEMA team mobilized to the scene, and carried out a rapid assessment and, based on findings, six persons including (5 males, and a female) were killed and seven houses were burnt to ashes. One vigilante officer was also killed by UXO and one church was burnt. Also an Unexplosive Ordinances (UXO) exploded and killed one personnel of NSCDC and injured three other military persons".

In an emotion laden voice, the CAN Chairman, Bishop Yohanna Audu, described the attacks on the COCIN Church and killing of a Pastor and other members as barbaric, anti-religious and unfortunate.

He lamented that the insurgents invaded the house of the Pastor and killed him along side other members before setting the Church (COCIN) ablaze.