

## Five Boko Haram suspects killed in Borno

THE Borno State Police Command on Monday said five suspected Boko Haram members died during a gunfight with the police in Damaturu, Yobe State.

The Commissioner of Police, Borno State Command, Alhaji Mohammed Abubakar, told newsmen that some of the suspected sect members died on Sunday when the police raided their hideout in the Yobe State capital, the *News Agency of Nigeria* reports.

Abubakar said the police recovered some sophisticated weapons such as rocket launchers, grenades, AK 47 rifles, pistols and explosives from the hideout. He said the weapons were smuggled into Nigeria from neighbouring Chad and Cameroon republics by members of the group.

Abubakar said a police patrol team on February 19 arrested a man inside an unregistered car, who named two alleged sponsors of the religious sect. He said while other occupants of the vehicle escaped, the suspect confessed that he was the coordinator of the group and was ferrying arms from neighbouring countries to Nigeria.

The police chief also said the suspect identified a man based in Damaturu and another in Maiduguri as the alleged financiers of the illegal arms movement. He said when a police investigation team was sent to the house of the man in Maiduguri, it was attacked by gunmen.

He said the suspect eventually escaped through a dilapidated wall fence, adding that the police faced a similar situation in Damaturu. He stated that it was during the Damaturu gun battle that the five men died.

Abubakar told newsmen that the corpses of the suspects had been deposited at the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital mortuary for autopsy.

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