

You are here: [Home](#) > [News](#) > [News by Country](#) > Article

Tue 7 Dec 2010 | 16:12 C

HOME

NEWS

News by Country

Top News

Sport

World

Oddly Enough

Blogs

INVESTING

AlertNet
Humanitarian News

Do More With Reuters
RSS 

Professional Products
Financial
Media
Support

Partner Services
Career Centre

About Thomson Reuters

Nigeria security forces clash with sect, five dead

Sun Dec 5, 2010 7:17pm GMT

[Print](#) | [Single Page](#)[\[-\] Text](#) [\[+\]](#)

MAIDUGURI, Nigeria Dec 5 (Reuters) - Nigerian security forces shot dead two suspected members of a radical Islamist sect in a gunbattle in the remote northeast, and three civilians were killed in the crossfire, police said on Sunday.

The battle is one of the heaviest in the northeastern city of Maiduguri since an uprising by the radical Boko Haram sect last year which led to clashes with the security forces in which hundreds of people were killed.

"Two Boko Haram members were shot dead yesterday night in an exchange of fire with the security forces," police spokesman Lawal Abdullahi said.

"Three passengers in a bus that happened to be passing were also killed by stray bullets, while six others sustained injuries," he said.

A series of attacks in recent months, mostly targeted killings of police officers and local traditional and religious figures, has raised fears that Boko Haram is staging a comeback.

The sect, whose name means "Western education is sinful" in the Hausa language, wants sharia (Islamic law) more widely applied across Africa's most populous nation, which is roughly divided into a mostly Muslim north and largely Christian south.

It is unclear how many adherents the group has, but poverty, unemployment, and a lack of education have meant its leaders have managed to build a cult-like following who are as much violently anti-establishment as fervently religious.

The uprising just over a year ago began with attacks on symbols of authority including police stations and government offices, and the targets in recent months have also been largely non-religious.

(For full Reuters Africa coverage and to have your say on the top issues, visit: af.reuters.com/) (Reporting by Ibrahima Mshelizza; Writing by Nick Tattersall; Editing by Mark Trevelyan)

© Thomson Reuters 2010 All rights reserved



AFRICA BLOGS

Will bandages mend broken ties in the DRC?

The relations between First Quantum and the Democratic Republic of Congo have gone from bad to worse in recent months, after the country expropriated the miner's \$765 million Kolwezi copper tailings project in September. [Blog](#)



Africa optimism rising

When some of the most influential figures in emerging markets finance spoke to a group of Reuters editors, they were asked about top picks for growth beyond the so-called BRIC countries of Brazil, Russia, India and China. [Blog](#)



Nile River row: Could it turn violent?

The giggles started when the seventh journalist in a row said that his question was for Egypt's water and irrigation minister, Mohamed Nasreddin Allam. [Blog](#)



Libya: a mixed bag

It has debt levels to die for and huge amounts of oil, but economically it's lagging and political concerns remain. Speakers at a Libyan trade and investment forum this week saw the North African country as a mixed bag. [Blog](#)



If Guinea Can...

If Guinea can pull off free and fair elections this weekend, it will lay the foundations for what could be one of Africa's most unexpected and significant good news stories. [Blog](#)



Africa takes the stage in London

Africa is providing a lot of fine material for the London theatre these days. [Blog](#)

