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Gunmen kill brigade commander in Borno

From Hamisu Kabir Matazu, Maiduguri

The brigade commander who led an operation to Wajirko in Damboa LGA of Borno State has been trailed and killed by members of the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP).

Security sources confirmed the incident on Monday, saying the terrorists trailed the general to his safe location and abducted him.

This comes five days after the insurgents ambushed the troops led by the brigadier general, killing two soldiers and two civilian JTF members, and reportedly abducting the general.

However, the Nigerian Army, in a statement, denied the abduction, insisting the general had safely led his men back to base, though the ambush resulted in the deaths of two gallant CJTF personnel and two soldiers.

On Monday, ISWAP fighters released an image of the brigade commander—showing a gunshot wound to his leg—under their custody. They later shot him dead after interrogation.

Online newspaper HumAngle said it had verified the image through detailed frame analysis and geolocation cross-checking and was satisfied with its authenticity.

The outlet also revealed that an image taken shortly after the ambush showed the general surrounded by armed fighters, appearing fatigued but alive.

He was later killed by the terrorists.

One security source said the general initially fled through a nearby forest in search of safety.

"As soon as the fighters received information that the commander had escaped, a unit of fighters set out to search for him and succeeded in capturing him on Saturday near one of the villages after he sustained an injury to his leg," he said.

■ Armored vehicle destroyed by terrorists in Borno

A security analyst described the killing of the brigade commander as a national tragedy that should concern every Nigerian.

"Do you know what it means to train a general, and for a general to be killed in the frontline? This must be of concern to every Nigerian.

"The least our troops should do is to surround the killers of the brave general and eliminate them," he said.