

# Mallam Fatori battle: Military kills 80 ISWAP members in Borno

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- CDS wants Borno, Yobe to take ownership of fight against Boko Haram/ISWAP

Troops of the Operation HADIN KAI have neutralised more than 80 terrorists following a fierce overnight battle in Mallam Fatori, Borno State.

The troops, under the Joint Task Force (JTF) (North East), repelled a coordinated five-pronged attack launched by insurgents on the 68 Battalion location in Sector 3 in the early hours of Wednesday.

The military, in its operational report made available to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) on Wednesday, revealed that the attackers advanced in large numbers on foot and deployed armed drones.

The report said the terrorists attempted to breach defensive positions, particularly along the Bravo Company frontage from the Duguri axis.

According to the report, troops, who had prior intelligence of the assault, mounted a well-coordinated offensive-defensive response, engaging the insurgents with superior firepower and tactical manoeuvre.

"The attackers were overwhelmed, disrupted and forced to retreat in disarray, leaving behind heavy casualties.

"Air support from the Air Component of OPHK, alongside allied Nigerian air assets, provided precision strikes that further decimated the fleeing insurgents.

"A subsequent sweep of the battlefield led to the recovery of a large cache of arms and ammunition, including dozens of AK-47 rifles, machine guns, RPG launchers, improvised explosive devices and components of armed drones."

The report further revealed that in spite of the intensity of the encounter, only four soldiers were wounded in action and have since been stabilised, while battle damage assessment was ongoing.

"Notably, three senior terrorist commanders: Malam Abdulrahman Gobara, Malam Ba Yuram and Abou Ayyuba, were among those killed, alongside several other fighters.

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The report described the outcome as a major setback for insurgent operations in the axis, noting that the elimination of key commanders would significantly disrupt their command structure.

It reaffirmed that troops remain in firm control of Mallam Fatori and surrounding areas, and dismissing claims of setbacks as misinformation.

It urged residents to remain vigilant and rely only on verified information as operations continue in the North East zone.

### **CDS wants Borno, Yobe to take ownership of fight against Boko Haram, ISWAP**

Meanwhile, the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), General Olufemi Oluyede, has tasked the people of Borno and Yobe states to take ownership of the fight against Boko Haram and ISWAP terrorists as a way forward.

The general insisted that some members of the communities in both states chose to be complicit by sabotaging the ongoing military operations in the region, the NAN has reported.

The CDS stated this in an interview with newsmen shortly after a four-hour closed-door meeting with the Chief of Army Staff, Lieutenant-General Waidi Shaibu, the Theatre Commander, North East Operation HADIN KAI, Major-General Abdulsalam Abubakar, alongside senior military officers in Maiduguri on Wednesday.

Oluyede said that credible intelligence at his disposal revealed that most of the people perpetrating the killings and destruction in the last 15 years of the Boko Haram crisis were allegedly from the affected states.

NAN reported that the CDS and others were in Borno State under the President Bola Tinubu's directive that they must relocate to Maiduguri, the state capital to nip in the bud the renewed and rising cases of Boko Haram and ISWAP attacks and bombings.

"We are here to review our strategies in the fight against Boko Haram/ISWAP terrorists in the North East zone.

"As you are aware, in the last month, there were attacks launched by terrorists which is their usual tactic during the holy month of Ramadan.

"But these challenges are not new as we are on top of the situation.

Unfortunately, most of the people perpetrating these heinous acts are from these states. They are our brothers, sisters and cousins. We know them.

"Let me give you an example, when Kukawa was attacked, while we were conducting a cordoned search afterwards, we discovered that two of the wounded terrorists were inside that village, that means the people were accomplices.

"Therefore, the people in these two states, Borno and Yobe, must take ownership in this war," Oluyede stated.

On the new tactics used by terrorists to launch attacks using drones and other technological weapons, the CDS insisted that the military was aware and currently on top of the situation, as the Nigerian military is now adopting German drones.