

Five insurgents killed as troops repel GOC ambush in Kebbi

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The convoy of the General Officer Commanding 8 Division of the Nigerian Army and Commander, Sector 2 of Operation Fansan Yamma, Maj Gen Bemgha Koughna, has repelled an ambush by suspected Lakurawa terrorists near Mayama Hill in Kebbi State, killing five insurgents and recovering a cache of weapons.

The attack occurred on Sunday as the GOC was en route to visit frontline troops deployed in the state, as part of ongoing counter-terrorism operations in the North-West.

According to a statement signed and made available to journalists on Monday by the Acting Deputy Director, Army Public Relations, Lt Col Olaniyi Osoba, the convoy came under “sudden and heavy fire” while moving through a forested stretch of the volatile axis.

“Demonstrating exceptional leadership and tactical prowess, the GOC and his troops responded with overwhelming firepower, neutralising five terrorists and successfully repelling the ambush,” the statement said.

It added that the swift counter-attack not only secured the convoy but also disrupted what appeared to be a coordinated attempt by the terrorist group to target senior military leadership.

Following the engagement, troops conducted a thorough sweep of the area and recovered a significant cache of weapons, including one OJC gun, one PKT gun, two AK-47 rifles, four AK-47 magazines, a bandolier of PKT ammunition, several rounds of 12.7mm ammunition, two mobile phones, five motorcycles, and a camel bag containing N840,000 suspected to be operational funds.

Military authorities described the recovery as a major intelligence breakthrough that could aid ongoing operations against terrorist cells operating in parts of Kebbi and neighbouring states.

Troops have since maintained control of the area to prevent further attacks.

“The operation underscores the unwavering commitment of the 8 Division Nigerian Army to protect civilians and eliminate terrorist threats in the North West region,” the statement added.

The incident comes months after reports that a brigadier general was killed by the Islamic State West Africa Province following an ambush in Borno State.

In November 2025, ISWAP claimed it had captured and executed Brig Gen M. Uba after ambushing a military convoy in the Damboa area of the state, a development that highlighted ongoing security challenges in the northeast.

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The command's Police Public Relations Officer, Nafiu Habib, disclosed this in a statement issued on Monday, noting that the incident occurred on Sunday.

Habib stated that two soldiers attached to the 33 Artillery Brigade, Bauchi, and a member of the local vigilante group lost their lives during the encounter.

He added that three residents of the affected community were abducted by the assailants.

“As a result of the attack, two soldiers attached to 33 Artillery Brigade, Bauchi, and a vigilante paid the supreme price during the encounter.

“Three members of the affected community were also abducted, and about seven bandits were neutralised by the Anti-Kidnapping Unit of the Police during the gun duel,” the statement read.

The police spokesperson further disclosed that additional security personnel had been deployed to the area to restore calm, safeguard displaced residents, and prevent further attacks.

According to the statement, the Commissioner of Police, Sani-Omolori Aliyu, assured the public that intelligence gathering and monitoring efforts were ongoing to track down the fleeing suspects and secure the release of the abducted victims.