

One killed as troops thwart NIPSS midnight raid

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Troops of Sector 6, Joint Task Force Operation Enduring Peace, have foiled an attack by suspected armed criminals on the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies, Kuru, in Jos South Local Government Area of Plateau State.

The troops, however, killed one of the assailants and recovered a rifle linked to a slain soldier.

The development comes barely two weeks after armed men attacked the institute, killing three security operatives.

In a statement posted on X on Thursday, the Nigerian Army said the attempted attack occurred at about 12:10 a.m. when the assailants tried to breach the institute's perimeter under the cover of darkness.

According to the Army, vigilant troops on guard duty swiftly engaged the assailants in a gun battle, neutralising one of the attackers, while others escaped with gunshot wounds into the surrounding high ground.

It stated that no soldier was killed or injured during the exchange.

The statement read, "Troops of Sector 6, Joint Task Force Operation Enduring Peace, in the early hours of Thursday, 2 July 2026, thwarted an attack by suspected armed criminal elements on a guard location

at the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies, Kuru, in Jos South Local Government Area of Plateau State.

“The assailants attempted to breach the institute’s perimeter under cover of darkness at about 12:10 a.m. They were swiftly engaged by vigilant troops in a decisive exchange of fire, resulting in the neutralisation of one of the attackers while the others fled with gunshot wounds towards the surrounding high ground. No casualties were sustained by the troops.”

The Army further disclosed that troops recovered an AK-pattern rifle bearing registration number CO-3175, loaded with 16 rounds of 7.62mm special ammunition, from the neutralised suspect.

According to the service, preliminary investigations revealed that the weapon originally belonged to a Nigerian Army soldier who was killed in action during an earlier encounter with unidentified militia elements at the Federal College of Land Resources Technology, Vom, on April 11, 2026.

“Preliminary checks confirmed that the weapon belonged to a Nigerian Army soldier who was killed in action during an earlier encounter with unidentified militia elements at the Federal College of Land Resources Technology, Vom, on 11 April 2026,” the statement said.

It noted that the recovered rifle had been taken into military custody as investigations continue to determine possible links between the foiled attack and previous security incidents in the Kuru-Vom axis.

The remains of the neutralised attacker have also been evacuated to a mortuary through the appropriate authorities.

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The Army said troops have intensified area domination patrols, clearance operations and pursuit of the fleeing suspects around NIPSS Kuru and neighbouring communities.

It explained that the operations were aimed at preventing criminal elements from regrouping and ensuring the safety of residents, personnel of the institute and other critical national assets.

“The situation remains firmly under control and normal activities within the institute and the surrounding area continue without interruption,” the statement added.

Reaffirming its commitment to security in Plateau State, the Nigerian Army said Operation Enduring Peace would continue to protect lives and strategic national institutions while restoring lasting peace across the state.

The Army urged members of the public to remain calm, go about their lawful activities and promptly report suspicious movements or activities to security agencies.

Also, the institute confirmed the attack in a statement issued on Thursday by its Head of Public Affairs, Dr Osime Samuel.

Samuel said the attackers engaged security personnel in a fierce exchange of gunfire but were forced to retreat following what it described as a swift and coordinated response by security forces.

According to the statement, one of the assailants was neutralised during the encounter, while several others reportedly escaped with varying degrees of injuries.

“The National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS), Kuru, wishes to inform the public that another attempt by unidentified armed assailants to breach the institute’s security perimeter was successfully repelled by security personnel late yesterday night, Wednesday, 1 July 2026.

“The attackers engaged security operatives in a gun duel but were forced to retreat following the swift and coordinated response of the security forces.

“One of the assailants was neutralised during the encounter, while others were reported to have escaped with varying degrees of injuries.

“The institute is pleased to report that there was no breach of the security perimeter. All participants, staff, residents and institute facilities remain safe and secure,” the statement read.

The institute reassured participants, staff, their families and the general public that the security of lives and property remained its highest priority.

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