

Army General feared killed in B'Haram attack on Borno community

- Tinubu describes fallen soldiers as unforgettable heroes
- DHQ warns against unauthorised release of information, misinformation
- Ndume urges FG to 'walk the talk', end terrorism

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THERE are fears that the Brigade Commander of the 29 Task Force Brigade Headquarters, in Benisheikh, Borno State, Brigadier General Oseni Braimah, may have been killed, during yesterday's Boko Haram attack on Pulka community in Gwoza Local Government Area and Benesheikh town.

The coordinated night attacks, Vanguard gathered left many soldiers dead, while scores of insurgents were neutralised by the army.

President Bola Tinubu, yesterday, sadness over the loss of the brave soldiers of the 29 Task Force Brigade, Operation HADIN KAI, who died in a coordinated terrorist attack on their camp in Benisheikh.

President Tinubu praised the courage and heroism of the soldiers who fought valiantly to repel the terrorists and ensure that Boko Haram could not overrun the communities the soldiers protect.

While mourning the death of the gallant soldiers, the President urged the leadership of the Armed Forces and all soldiers on the frontline not to be discouraged, but to draw strength from the nation's deep appreciation for their sacrifices.

He said: "From the reports I have received, our armed forces have been conducting sustained, intense land and air offensives against the insurgents, neutralising many of their fighters and commanders. The insurgents' counterattack is a sign of desperation.

"Extend my condolences to the families of our gallant soldiers, led by Brigadier-General Braimah, who made the ultimate sacrifice in the defence of our country today in Borno State.

"The government will never forget their sacrifices. Their sacrifices will not be in vain. Because of the courage and dedication of our troops on the frontline, our resolve to defeat terrorism and all forms of violence across Nigeria is stronger than ever.

"I urge the Military High Command and our troops in all theatres of operation: Do not lose heart, do not be weary,



• Brig.-Gen. Braimah

do not be discouraged.

This came as the Defence headquarters pleaded with the public and the media to respect established military tradition by allowing formal notification of next of kins, before the release of casualty details.

Meanwhile, Senator Mohammed Ndume (Borno South), while reacting to the attack in his constituency and other security threats in Borno, urged President Bola Tinubu, who has since declared State of Emergency in the security sector to Walk-the-Talk, as the lives of security agencies are under threats, with innocent civilians dying almost on daily basis.

Four sources, including the military confirmed the overnight attack, with one intelligence source putting the death toll at 18.

Unidentified terrorists overran the military base, killed 18 soldiers and torched vehicles in Benisheikh, about 75 kilometres (47 miles) from Borno State capital, Maiduguri, an intelligence source told AFP.

In Pulka, preliminary investigation revealed that many facilities, including

road construction firm (Decency's) equipment and machines were set ablaze. Pulka currently hosts thousands of the recently displaced people of Ngoshe.

In Benesheikh town, the insurgents struck about 1a.m., yesterday, and set ablaze many trucks and commercial vehicles, and killing a number of motorists and passengers who had stop-over journey to pass the night in Benesheikh due to the routine evening closure of the Maiduguri-Damaturu-Kano road.

A source said, scores of the insurgents were also neutralised by troops in Benesheikh, but unfortunately, some security personnel also paid the supreme price, as many vehicles were also carted away by the terrorists.

On the fate of the Brigade Commander, a source in a social media post, said: "Innalillahi wa Inna'llaihin raji'un." "Boko Haram has again, unfortunately, succeeded in eliminating the commanding officer of Benisheikh.

"This unfortunate incident occurred last night when the insurgent stormed the military formation in

numbers.

"May the soul of the fallen heroes rest in peace," he said.

Meanwhile, the Chairman of Kaga local government area, Zanna Ajimi, confirmed the killing of the Brigade Commander. He said: "Yes we just left the military base now, and I can confirm to you that the Brigade Commander is among the casualties."

Ajimi said: "We are in a difficult situation as Boko Haram wrecked havoc in Benesheikh. I cannot give you the exact number of casualties, but many of the insurgents, civilians and security personnel were killed."

DHQ warns against unauthorised release of information, misinformation

According to the Director of Defence Media Operations, Major General Michael Onoja, the attempted assault occurred about 0030hrs on April 9, 2026, when insurgents launched an attack on the Brigade Headquarters in a bid to breach the defensive perimeter of the military formation.

He disclosed that troops, under the leadership of the Commander 29 Brigade, Brigadier General Braimah, responded with exceptional courage, professionalism, and overwhelming firepower, decisively engaging the terrorists and forcing them to retreat in disarray.

The military said the failed attack reflects the desperation of terrorist elements who, after suffering significant setbacks in recent operations, have resorted to what it described as "futile and ill-fated offensives" against fortified military positions.

Despite the successful repulsion of the attack, the AFN confirmed that the encounter resulted in the loss of a few gallant soldiers who paid the supreme price in the line of duty.

The Chief of Defence Staff, General Olufemi Oluyede, paid tribute to the fallen troops, describing their sacrifice as heroic and their courage as a lasting source of pride and inspiration to the Armed Forces and the nation at large.

"In line with military tradition, the Armed Forces urges the public and media to refrain from spreading casualty figures or unverified details until families of the fallen have been formally informed."

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