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Nigeria: Four Killed Many Injured As JTF Clash With Suspected Boko Haram Gunmen

Hamza Idris

18 January 2012

Maiduguri — AT least four people have been killed and many others, including soldiers, sustained gunshot wounds when operatives of the Joint Task Force (JTF) had a gun duel with members of the Boko Haram in Maiduguri yesterday.

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Field operations officer of the JTF Colonel Victor Ebhaleme who spoke to our correspondent by phone said four people, "most of them members of the Boko Haram", were killed during the encounter at Zinari, along Gomari area of the state capital.

He said a soldier was also injured during the encounter and was taken to a hospital for treatment.

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"We have cordoned off the whole area and are now searching for the assailants.

Residents must have to cooperate with us if they really want peace to return. We have enough evidence to prove that the Boko Haram men are in the midst of civilians", he said.

However, a senior official of the State Security Service (SSS) confirmed that two soldiers were killed and few others injured when about 10 gunmen waylaid some operatives of the JTF.

"A soldier was killed at the scene of the gun duel and we learnt that another one died at the Air Force hospital. Few soldiers sustained injuries and many civilians were caught up during the coordinated attack," an official of a humanitarian organization, who spoke in confidence, said.

Musa Ali, a resident of Zinari told Daily Trust that some gunmen who rode in a Keke NAPEP attacked JTF operatives which resulted in serious fight.

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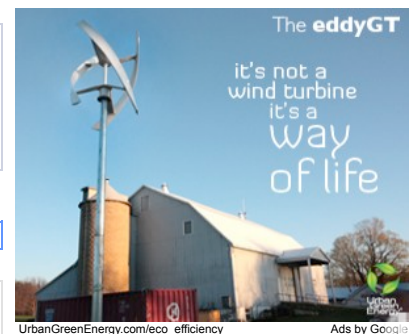
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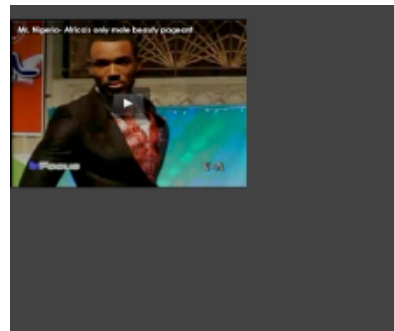
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