

Three killed in JTF house raid in Damaturu

JOINT Military Task Force Saturday raided houses located in Nyanya Quarters killing three gunmen and captured one after they were engaged in a duel gun battle for over one hour with multiple explosions.

Yobe State Police Public Relation officer Toyin Gbadagesin confirmed to Associated Press that the "Operation left the hide-out, which is located in a residential part of the city completely destroyed".

Though Gbadagesin did not divulge how many alleged sect members were killed in Saturday's explosive attacks. A staff of the Damaturu Specialist Hospital told the AP, on condition of anonymity, that three bullet-ridden bodies were brought into the morgue.

The police spokesman said they raided the compound after receiving information about "a plan by Boko Haram hoodlums to launch attacks in the city".

The Joint Task Force (JTF) military unit "located their positions... they cordoned off these positions and engaged the gunmen in a shootout," he explained to the AFP.

There was a heavy exchange of gunfire between soldiers and Islamist militants, who sometimes threw IEDs at the military operatives, Gbadagesin explained, and it exchange lasted for about an hour.