

Nigeria: As JTF Raids Insurgents' Hideout...15 Killed in Kano

BY LAWAN DANJUMA ADAMU, 1 APRIL 2013

Kano — Fourteen suspected insurgents and a soldier were killed yesterday in Kano when security forces raided a "terrorists" hideout at Unguwa Uku area.

Another soldier was seriously wounded in the operation, which residents said was conducted by hundreds of men of the Joint Task Force (JTF).

People living in the area said they noticed heavy movement of troops and started hearing sounds of gunfire at about 3.30am.

The shooting lasted till around 11.30am, during which roads leading to the neighborhood including portions of the busy Zaria Road expressway were completely closed down by security men.

Residents said they were not allowed to leave their homes while the operation was going on.

"I was awake when the troops started moving in and taking positions and after a little while, there was shooting everywhere," said a female resident of the 'Yan-Awaki neighborhood.

"There were also heavy explosions and everything was tense," she added.

Spokesman for the JTF, Capt. Ikedichi Iweha, said the operation was conducted after a tip off on activities of suspected terrorists in the area.

He said when the JTF personnel stormed the neighborhood and attempted to enter two adjoining houses where the insurgents were based, the occupants put up stiff resistance firing guns and detonating explosives.

This resulted in a shoot out in which 14 suspected insurgents and 1 soldier were killed, he said, adding that another soldier was also injured.

He said security forces recovered a Golf car that was wired with explosives, which was to be used for a suicide bombing yesterday, Easter Sunday.

Iweha also disclosed that 14 AK-47 rifles, many improvised explosive devices, rifle magazines and other weapons were found after the raid.

He added that the two houses where the insurgents lived were pulled down, while their commander was captured.

A security officer, who does not want his name mentioned, said some of those killed in the shooting were non-Nigerians, among them two bomb experts.

"There were two women who I suspect were from Chad. We were informed they make some of the IEDs the group use to carry out attacks," the officer said.

Yesterday's military operation was considered to be the biggest in recent months in the city that has seen an upsurge of violence blamed on the Jama'atu Ahlis Sunnah Lid Da'awati Wal Jihad, also known as Boko Haram.

It came two weeks after the luxury bus bombing that killed at least 22 people according to the official death toll.

In the wake of the suicide bombing at the bus park, security forces had been conducting house-to-house raids trying to fish out insurgents. Last week, they announced seizure of explosive devices and guns at an area in Kano.



Photo: Daily Trust

Joint Task Force members, Nigeria.

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