

## 6 INSURGENTS, 1 SOLDIER KILLED IN KANO



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A soldier and six insurgents were killed during an early morning raid by the Joint Task Force on a house at Dandaji quarters in Sheka area of Kumbotso Local Government Area in Kano State yesterday.

Five women and three children were found inside the building located in the densely populated area. Conducting newsmen round the building, which has since been destroyed, JTF spokesperson Capt. Ikedichi Iweha said two AK47 rifles, 39 rounds of ammunition and four magazines were recovered in the operation which started at dawn and ended at day break.

"The raid was conducted based on information that the insurgents were plotting to rob traders at the Kantin Kwari Market," according to Iweha.

He said the information was disclosed by two suspects who were earlier arrested by JTF at another location in Mariri area.

"When our men entered the building, the suspect who led them there quickly alerted his accomplices inside, resulting in our troops coming under fire," he said.

"Our soldiers, however, did not return fire to avoid civilian casualty, because it was still dark and there was no clear visibility of targets.

"But soon as light appeared, they stormed the building and killed six gunmen and extricated three children and five women," he added.

He also said a soldier was shot dead by one of the gunmen who attempted to flee the scene, but was gunned down by soldiers.

The task force also asserted that the professional way the operation was conducted without causing any harm to the women and children was a proof that innocent people were not being targeted by troops as "some narrowly-minded thinking people" always insinuate.

Speaking to newsmen, wife of one of the suspected insurgents said her husband was a trader and that she was not aware of his whereabouts.

Another lady said she came from Azare in Bauchi State to visit her sister in the house.

However, the JTF said one of the women had attempted to hide a mobile phone SIM card in her underwear.

Weekly Trust gathered that movements were restricted in the area, as JTF personnel asked residents to remain indoors. This is as security forces pulled down the suspected hideout.

The raid came less than two weeks after a similar raid at 'Yan Awaki quarters in Unguwa Uku area, where 14 suspected insurgents were killed, according to the JTF.

Gunmen in Monday night shot and killed a telecom engineer outside his residence at Janbulo area of the state.

Meanwhile, the JTF has renewed its calls to landlords and other property owners in the state to desist from hiring out their houses to insurgents or risk being treated as accomplices.

Iweha, who made the call yesterday, noted that despite consistent warnings by security agencies some people were still giving out accommodation to people of questionable characters.

"While we appeal to the members of the general public to continue to assist us with useful information to stop terrorists in their tracks, we will not hesitate to warn property owners and ward heads to stop renting out houses to these terrorists or risk being tested as collaborators," he said.

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