

BOKO HARAM KILLING CIVILIANS TO SNATCH FOOD – ARMY

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The 7 Division of the Nigerian Army in Maiduguri yesterday said its men have killed "several" members of the dreaded Boko Haram sect who have launched various attacks on civilian population and snatched foodstuff.

The military also justified its deployment of fighter jets to parts of Borno State which killed many Boko Haram insurgents and called on civilian population not to panic.

Spokesman of the Division, Lt Col Sagir Musa said in a statement yesterday that attacks on isolated locations in Borno state by the insurgents were "out of desperation for food and cash."

According to the statement, "at about 1135 hours on 12 September, 2013 (Thursday) some troops of Banki Operating Base on a mission to 202 Battalion Bama, on their way back to Banki encountered some Boko Haram terrorists along Bama-Banki road carrying out armed robbery activities on innocent traders and travelers.

"The terrorists had killed three passengers and collected unspecified amount of cash and food items during the robbery incident. In the ensuing confrontation between the sect and the military, several Boko Haram members lost their lives," the spokesman said.

The statement also accused the Boko Haram of dispatching a letter to the leadership of traders at the Dikwa market in northern part of the state, demanding N1 million from traders to enable them purchase food items and other logistics or face their wrath.

About three weeks ago, the Army had accused the Boko Haram insurgents of resorting to cannibalism and armed robberies.

Musa said the insurgents are intensifying attacks on the civil population, because they have been disorganized by the military.

"The recent distressed attacks on isolated villages in some agrarian areas of Northern Borno state brings to the fore the blatant desperation of Boko Haram terrorists in search for food items, cash for survival and sustenance of their sacrilegious activities," the spokesman said.



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